FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Units from Iraq's 2d Army Corps launched a "sweeping attack" early on 31 January, occupying new positions, inflicting heavy losses on the Iranians, and capturing large numbers of enemy troops and weapons, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The new Iraqi attack was in the central sector, according to a related INA report. Monitored Iranian media have not thus far mentioned the offensive. Earlier, Iraq announced another raid on shipping in the Gulf, claiming in a military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio that Iraqi planes delivered an "accurate and effective" strike against a "very large maritime target" on 30 January.

Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn reviewed the military situation during talks with visiting King Husayn and other Jordanian officials, including the Jordanian Armed Forces commander, according to Amman radio. The Iraqi-Jordanian talks also focused on bilateral relations and the Arab situation, voice of the Masses radio noted.

OPEC

Nine OPEC states have agreed on a new price structure in which the maximum differential between heavy and light crudes will be reduced to $2.40 by cutting prices of the lighter oils while maintaining Arab heavy crude at $26.50 per barrel, according to an official press release on the Geneva meeting carried by OPECNA. Algeria, Iran, and Libya "dissociated" themselves from the decision and Gabon abstained. The agreement reduces the price of Arab light to $28 per barrel, and the UAE petroleum minister stated in remarks reported by SPA that the new price structure abolishes Arab light's role as a "marker" price. His Saudi counterpart, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, predicted that OPEC will maintain its current production ceiling and disclosed that he has commissioned a Dutch firm to audit OPEC output and prices, according to OPECNA. Meanwhile, the Algerian energy minister criticized the "unfair" new price structure in a statement cited by Algiers radio, adding that Algeria will henceforth fix its oil prices in accordance with the market situation.

Lebanon

Damascus Talks — Syria and Lebanon agree on the need to bolster the unity government by implementing security measures in West Beirut and opening the Beirut-Damascus and coastal highways, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam stated at a press conference broadcast by Damascus television after further talks with Prime Minister Rashid Karami and other Lebanese leaders. Karami confirmed the intention to open the Beirut-Damascus and Beirut-Tripoli highways, telling the journalists that he would begin working on this immediately after his return to Beirut.

Security — A random bombardment by an artillery piece based in the western sector injured six people in East Beirut on 31 January, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon announced. Meanwhile, the IDF has completed the evacuation of all its equipment from the Sidon area and has blown up bunkers and caves formerly used by the PLO, the radio noted.

Israel

Rabin in U.S. — Before examining the possibilities for expanding the peace process, Israel wants to strengthen its economy, solve the Lebanese problem, and improve relations with Egypt, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in remarks broadcast by IDF radio. Rabin noted that he raised this "order of priorities" in his talks with President Ronald Reagan.

West Bank — Israeli military sources reacted "angrily" to an International Commission of Jurists report that accuses Israel of maltreating Arab detainees in the Farah Youth Detention Center near Nabulus, according to Jerusalem radio. The sources said the report is based on "false claims" originating from "hostile organizations" which manipulate legal organizations to spread their propaganda.

Libya

Chad Accusation — Chadian officials have publicized details of a Libyan plot to assassinate Chadian President Hissein Habre last year, Ndjamena radio announced.

Southern Sudan

Forces of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) recently raided Bor, capital of Jonglei province, killing or wounding 45 government soldiers, the clandestine SPLA radio announced.

Afghanistan

A letter from the PDPA Central Committee to the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, broadcast by Kabul radio, urged the PRC to stop interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs through its "increasing support" for the "counterrevolutionary" bands. The DRA wants friendly and good-neighborly relations with China, the letter stressed, but in order to achieve this the PRC must end its hostility toward the Afghan revolution and stop supporting the rebels, who are currently receiving weapons and training from the Chinese.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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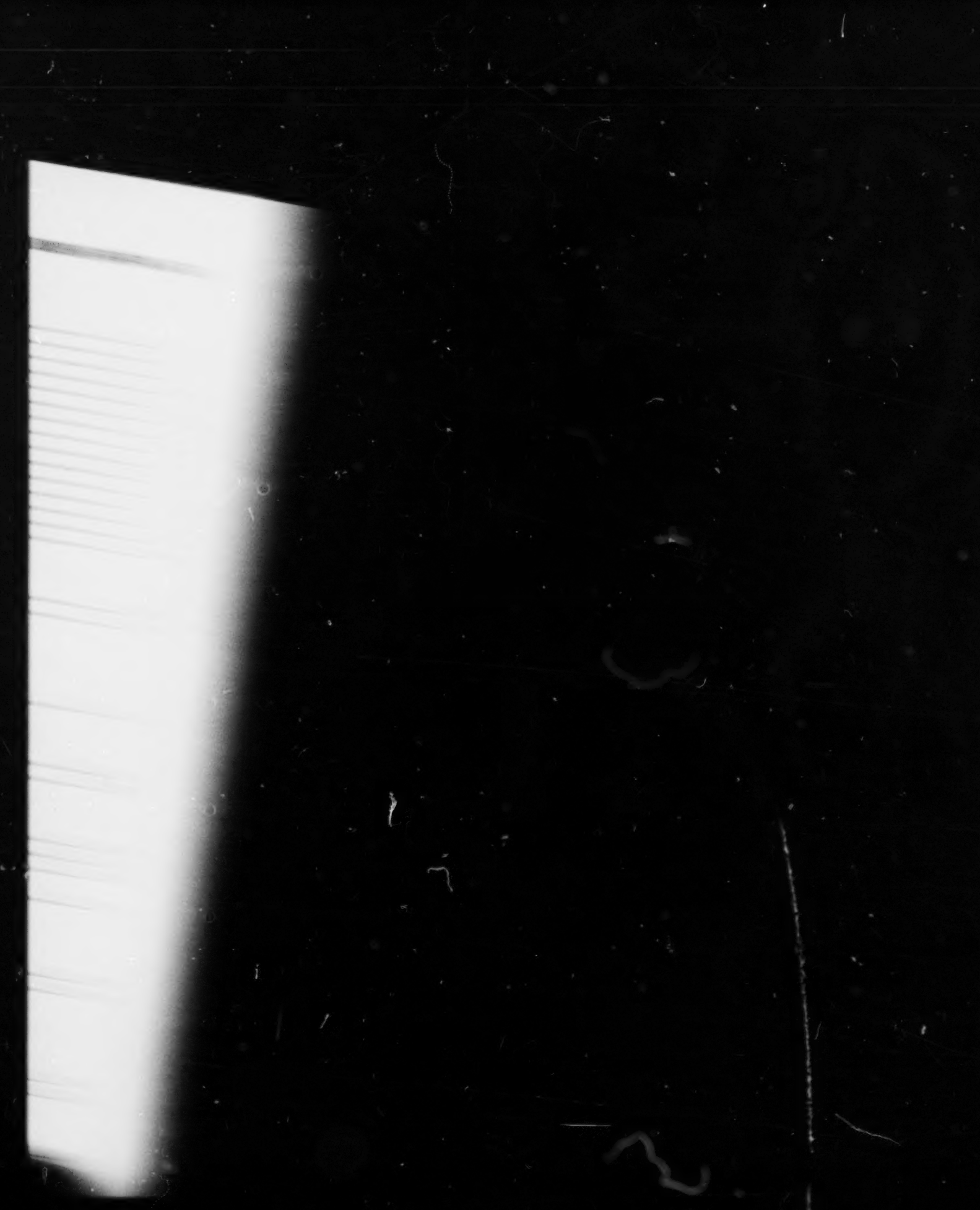

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'Arafat Rejects Offer To Attend Tehran Summit

JN301925 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-SIYASAH* said today that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat rejected an Iranian Foreign Ministry offer to participate in the Tehran conference held afew days ago in which the Syrian, Libyan, and Iranian foreign ministers took part. The paper cited political sources as saying that Algeria and the PDRY also refused to participate in the Tehran conference.

Fatah Meeting Discusses PLO-Jordan Differences

JN310748 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jan 85 p 1

[Lamis K. Andoni dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The Central Committee of Fatah, the mainstream Palestinian commando group within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), held an important meeting Wednesday night to discuss differences between the PLO and Jordan over a basis for future political moves to solve the Palestinian question, a senior PLO official here said.

The official, who asked not to be named, told the *JORDAN TIMES* that the Central Committee was going to discuss new suggestions by Jordan on a common platform for future joint political action.

The new suggestions, which are in effect an elaboration of proposals made by His Majesty King Husayn during the inaugural session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman, were conveyed by Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan who has just returned here from Amman after a few days' visit.

Mr. al-Hasan, a prominent troubleshooter for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, made his visit to Amman this week and conveyed to the Jordanian Government the Palestinian "perception", a sort of reply, to the king's proposals.

The Palestinian "perception" as conveyed by Mr. al-Hasan reiterated rejection of UN Resolution 242, but expressed the PLO's readiness to accept the principle of exchanging land for peace provided it is modified to include "exchanging the Palestinian land for peace" and the right for Palestinian self-determination and to establish a Palestinian state. The Jordanian government, in its turn, and together with Mr. al-Hasan, formulated a new modified formula to be discussed by the Palestinian leadership, according to the senior Fatah official.

There was no immediate explanation here to the contradiction between the fact that Mr. al-Hasan participated in formulating the new formula and the negative reactions by several Central Committee members here to some points of this formula.

According to the official, the new Jordanian formula still endorses UN Resolution 242, calls for the formation for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian negotiating team and leaves the door open for all Middle East peace initiatives including U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Sept., 1982 proposals. The official noted that these are three basic points which the Central Committee still opposes and which constitute points of difference with the Jordanian approach. Although the Central Committee has not yet taken a final stand on the issue, the senior official told the *JORDAN TIMES* that there are four basic principles that Fatah is not ready to accept:

First, Resolution 242, since it refers to the Palestinians as refugees and not as a people.

Second, a joint Palestinian-Jordanian negotiating team. "We are ready to accept to be part of a united Arab team which includes Jordan, the PLO, Syria and Egypt within the framework of an international conference, but not a two-Party team," the official said. "It is either a unified Arab team or a separate PLO delegation," he said.

Third, Fatah will not accept any initiative that does not include an article that recognises the Palestinian right to self-determination and the right of the PLO to be the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Fourth, Fatah refuses any step or article that might lead to the exclusion of the Soviet Union from any peace negotiation.

Political observers here noted that the political atmosphere here is in many aspects similar to the situation that prevailed back in April 1983 when the Central Committee of Fatah turned down a joint formula signed by King Husayn and Mr. 'Arafat.

The difference, however, as the senior PLO official explained, is that Fatah is determined not to go back to square one with Jordan and will not allow its relation and coordination with Jordan to reach a deadlock.

"The Fatah Central Committee is determined to reach, together with Jordan, a formula that guarantees the continuation of the inevitable coordination between Jordan and PLO to liberate the Israeli-occupied territories and to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinians," the official said, an hour before holding another important meeting of the Central Committee Wednesday night.

PLO Central Council To Meet in February

JN301749 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that the PLO Central Council will meet in the middle of February to discuss Palestinian-Jordanian relations and other issues. He added that the meeting will be held either in Algeria, Tunisia, or the PDRY. In press statements published in Tunis, Brother 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad said that Palestinian-Jordanian relations assumed further importance when the 17th PNC session was held in Amman late last year.

Egyptian Paper Interviews Palestinian Leaders

Fatah's Khalaf

NC310755 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA) — Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has affirmed that no one can underestimate Egypt's historic and pan-Arab role. He praised President Husni Mubarak, saying: We respect him and appreciate his stand.

In a statement to the Cairo newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* on Thursday and in response to a question about his views on the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Abu Iyad said: We ask President Husni Mubarak in particular to participate in formulating Jordanian-Palestinian relations on a clear basis so that this will open the way for a comprehensive Arab dialogue through which all Arab differences can be overcome.

Asked whether an Egyptian role must come from inside or outside the Arab League, Abu Iyad pointed out that he is against waiting and that Egypt and President Mubarak must begin moving. He said: We must not obstruct Egypt's role so that Egypt can return to the Arab League.

Asked about his view of the Egyptian role in formulating Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Abu Iyad stressed the Palestinian leadership's adherence to a Palestinian state and the right to self-determination. He said that Egypt embraces this issue and therefore can play a role in formulating any Jordanian-Palestinian-Egyptian relations and any Arab or international relations.

Abu Iyad further said that there are no differences within the Fatah Central Committee or the PLO Executive Committee over Egypt and its role. He said that the differences that arose following Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to Cairo were in fact organizational and not political differences. He said that every Palestinian knows what the situation would be like when Egypt is present in the arena. He said that the Egyptian people have no problems vis-a-vis the Palestinians nor do the Palestinians, because a great Egypt does not fear a Palestinian state or the Palestinians. Egypt's most important sacrifices were made for the Palestinian cause, he added.

Asked his assessment of the Saudi role, Abu Iyad said: "Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria have a great role to play in the region. There is a plan for moving with the Arab right, such as Saudi Arabia, and the Arab left, such as Algeria and Aden. He said that Aden wants the restoration of relations with Egypt."

Answering a question about the deterioration in the Arab situation, Abu Iyad said that the Syrian regime is trying to exploit Syria's natural location on the battlefield. Syria is trying to delude and frighten the Arabs that the battle is coming. He said that unless the Arabs decisively settle this issue as quickly as possible, this could lead to obstructing the Arab and Palestinian initiatives. He said that it is high time that no one party should control the Arab arena; instead, the will of the Arab majority should take control of the arena.

Concerning the efforts being made to convene an Arab summit conference, Abu Iyad said that if the consultations in this respect reach a deadlock, a decision could be made to convene an Arab summit without the condition of unanimity. He added: We have proposed convening Arab mini-summits among the countries that have problems with the countries that are not party to these problems. Through such summit conferences, some problems could be solved in preparation for convening a greater or expanded Arab summit. He pointed out that Saudi Arabia and Algeria could play a great role in such mini-summits, which must deal with the Palestinian-Syrian problem, the situation between Jordan and Syria, and that between Iraq and Syria.

In reply to a question about Syrian-Palestinian relations following the murder of PLO Executive Committee member Fahd al-Qawasimi, Abu Iyad said that the present Syrian regime has made its decision to fight the PLO to the end under the pretext of fighting Yasir 'Arafat. He expressed his conviction that by playing this role Syria is seeking to open a window [taqah] to the United States. He said that the only window Syria can open for the United States is the liquidation of the PLO. Abu Iyad said that something practical must happen so that the Syrian regime will change its ideas and actions. He said that this practical thing lies in stopping the Iran-Iraq war on the one hand and in Egypt's return to play its basic role in the Arab arena on the other. He said that the Syrian regime needs to be deterred and if it is not, it will continue on this path He said that a danger is not only posed to the PLO and 'Arafat but to the Palestinian cause itself, because Syria and Libya are pooling all their resources to distort the Palestinian revolution.

Abu Iyad denied mediation efforts between the PLO and Syria. He said that talks were held with Saudi and Algerian officials in this respect. He pointed out that he is not opposed to political relations with Syria but to the assassination strategy Syria is pursuing. He further said that Syria is adopting a political plan aimed at establishing a new PLO leadership and toppling the current leadership. The most important point in this plan was preventing the convocation of the PNC meeting. Following the convocation of the PNC meeting, the Syrian regime was in despair, because thisrepresented a failure of their political plan. Therefore, they began considering assassinations. He said that the Syrian goal is to control the Palestinian card [wabaqah], a card that would be weak and unable to make a decision.

PLO's Qaddumi

NC300650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA) — PLO Political Department chief, Faruq Qaddumi has emphasized that the PLO will not accept any solution to the Palestinian question if it is not based on three points: the right to self-determination, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and the return of the refugees in accordance with the UN resolutions. In an interview to be published by the Cairo paper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* in its edition on Thursday, Qaddumi urges the Arab states to adopt a decisive and collective stand to confront the U.S. stand which is partial to Israel. He says: The decisive point in our cause is based on the U.S. stand and the Arab attitude toward this stand.

Responding to a question on how he views Egypt's relations with the Arabs, Qaddumi says: Egypt is the biggest Arab power. The Arab group must support Egypt which is making good strides regarding these relations.

In response to a question about the initiatives to solve the Middle East problem, Qaddumi says: There is the Arab peace plan. It is acceptable to the PLO, which participated in its preparation. There is also the Soviet initiative. The PLO welcomes and accepts this initiative.

Qaddumi points out in this regard that the EC cannot develop its stand on the Palestinian question, particularly after the Dublin conference, because of the political and economic pressures that the United States exerts on it. He says: The attempt by Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi to combine the European initiatives seeks to persuade the Arabs to make a new concession; we only see Craxi trying to persuade the Arabs to make concessions and not the inflexible sides such as the United States and Israel. We cannot therefore depend on what Craxi presents.

Qaddumi then discusses the Jordanian initiative regarding the Palestinian question. He says: Actually, there is no initiative in the true sense of the word. King Husayn submitted proposals to the PNC but there is nothing new in these proposals. Qaddumi, however, stresses that Jordan and the PLO continue to coordinate their actions because of their interlinked interests and because the PNC decision provides for such an understanding.

Qaddumi points out that the Palestinians demand that an international conference be held, something which was approved by the Arab group during the 1983 Geneva conference, to deal with the Middle East crisis. They demand that all parties concerned should attend this conference and that the PLO should participate in it on an equal footing with them. He says: Our stands must conform with the stand of the Arab group to use the available cards in moving the international situation.

Responding to a question on Palestinian-Syrian relations, Qaddumi affirmed that the PLO rejects any attempts to contain it or to undermine the independent Palestinian decision. He says: We want balanced relations with Syria. We have continuously been emphasizing that we reject any subservience to or trusteeship by any Arab state. We are careful not to err in these relations, although Syria has erred, because we are aware of the enormous responsibility we shoulder.

Asked about Syria's role in the Arab decision and its defiance by siding with Iran, the chief of the PLO Political Department says: The Arab decision is not a Syrian decision although the financial conditions of several Arab countries have precluded the convocation of the Arab summit. [sentence as received]

Qaddumi asserted that no state can impose its will on the Arab group because the Arab decision is collective, was made at anArab summit, and all sides without exception are supposed to abide by it.

Al-Wazir Views Armed Struggle, Arab Solidarity

JN301743 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has affirmed that armed struggle is the Palestinian people's only alternative for regaining their inalienable, legitimate rights, including their right to return, to self-determination, and to establish an independent Palestinian state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. In press statements published in Algiers, Brother Abu Jihad said that the Arab world should demonstrate more solidarity in order to confront the designs aimed at denying the Palestinian people their inalienable, legitimate rights, which are recognized by the international organizations.

Belgian Airline Placed on Arab Boycott List

JN302115 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Tunis, 30 Jan (INA)— The 52d session of the Arab Offices for the Boycott of Israel concluded its meetings here today.

During their meetings, which continued for 5 days, the conferees discussed ways to tighten the Arab boycott of Israel and face all challenges on the Arab and international levels. They concentrated on the free trade zone between the United States and Israel, its dangers and harmful effect on the Arab boycott of Israel, and the basic objectives of this boycott.

The conferees recommended bolstering existing productive Arab projects and facilitiating the establishment of new projects that achieve self-sufficiency, enable the Arabs to dispense with foreign products, and attract Arab manpower.

The conferees also recommended banning dealings with the Belgian airline company's owners, board members, and general manager from entering Arab countries in order to transport Falasha Jews to Israel.

Saudi Minister Discusses Arab Satellite

GF301428 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Dr 'Alawi Darwish Kayyal, minister of posts, telephones, and telegraph, held a press conference today in which he talked about the Arab satellite, to be launched on 8 February, its usage, and the services it will render to the Arab peoples.

His highness talked about the efforts during the preparations for launching the Arab satellite and lauded the active role palyed in this regard by the Saudi Arab Satellites Organization, which stems from the Arab League.

Further Reportage on Emergency OPEC Meeting

OPEC Press Statement Issued

LD301444 Vienna OPECNA in English 1410 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Geneva, 30 Jan. 85 (OPECNA) — At the conclusion of the 73rd (extraordinary) meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting countries (OPEC) here, the following press release was issued:

The 73rd (extraordinary) meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 28th to 30th January, 1985. The conference unanimously re-elected as its president HE Dr. Subroto, minister of mines and energy of Indonesia and head of its delegation. HE Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy and petrochemical industries of Algeria and head of its delegation, was unanimously re-elected alternate president.

The conference again welcomed representatives of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Mexico who attended the meeting as observers, whose presence once more emphasized the desire of those countries to cooperate with OPEC in strengthening the oil market and price structure.

The conference reviewed the report of the ministerial monitoring committee, headed by HE Dr. Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and mineral resources of the United Arab Emirates and head of its delegation, on the market situation since the last meeting of the conference. The conference discussed the report of the ministerial committee on price differentials, headed by HE Ahmed Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources of Saudi Arabia and head of its delegation.

Ecuador, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela have agreed that the maximum price differential between heavy crude oil produced in the Gulf (Arabian heavy) and light crudes produced in Africa should be in the order of 2.40 U.S. dollars per barrel and have, therefore, decided to fix the price of their own crudes in accordance with the table below with effect from 1st February, 1985:

Grade of Oil / Price Per Barrel

Arab heavy / 26.50
Arab medium / 27.40
Arab light / 28.00
Murban / 28.15
Minas / 28.53
Bonny light / 28.65

However, Algeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya dissociated themselves from this decision. Gabon abstained.

The conference furthermore considered the report of the ministerial Executive Council, chaired by HE Ahmed Zaki Yamani, and endorsed its recommendations.

The conference expressed its sincere appreciation to the Federal Government of Switzerland and to the Republic and Canton of Geneva for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

Yamani Discounts Unanimity Absence

LD302113 Vienna OPECNA in English 1908 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Geneva, 30 Jan. 85 (OPECNA) — The decision reached by the OPEC ministerial conference today "will send a very strong signal to the world oil market", Shaykh Ahmed Zaki Yamani said today.

The Saudi Arabian petroleum and mineral resources minister, who is also chairman of the OPEC ministerial committee on differentials, told journalists that the absence of unanimity in respect of the agreement reached, was nothing new in OPEC. He referred to the OPEC conference in Quito in June 1974 and the one in Qatar in December 1976 — the latter featuring the two-tier pricing system. Since 1979, Yamani recalled, there had been decisions to which some members had agreed, while others had not.

Yamani said the reduction in the weighted average of OPEC crude was "not as large as it may appear". He added that there was only a difference of 29 cents between the weighted average of 28.25 dollars in effect until now, and the 27.96 dollars to be introduced from February.

Yamani stated that OPEC would maintain its production ceiling of 16 million b/d, adding that the figure could even be less in the near future. Yamani, who is also chairman of the OPEC ministerial executive council, said he expected "exact figures on production by the end of February", with a report on the selling price available by March.

The Saudi minister announced that he had just signed an agreement with a Dutch firm to carry out the auditing of production and prices as agreed to by member countries, said even those countries which were not in support of today's decision were part of the unanimous agreement on auditing. "We are dedicated to achieving our target," Yamani emphasized.

Answering a question, Yamani said with the OPEC decision today, "Britain will be able to maintain its price".

Algieria To Follow Market

LD302034 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy and chemical and petrochemical industries, stated at the end of the Geneva conference that the suggested formula for reducing some prices is unfair. Brother Nabi pointed out that the solution adopted by the majority of the OPEC countries means a loss of $2.4 billion every year for the OPEC oil producers.

Concerning the resolutions of the conference, Brother Nabi pointed out that they were not adopted unanimously, and that the benchmark price, which is $29.00, cannot be altered except by a unanimous resolution.

At the end Brother Belkacem Nabi pointed out that Algeria will fix the price of its oil according the situation of the market. He added that efforts will be made within the organization's ministerial committee to set prices which would guarantee compliance with the adopted resolutions, especially concerning the production ceiling.

UAE Minister on Agreement

LD301412 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1345 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Geneva, 30 Jan (SPA) — By a narrow majority the OPEC ministers today agreed to narrow the gap in price differentials between light and heavy crudes.

The UAE minister of petroleum and mineral resources stated that the ministers, by a majority decision, reached a new price structure abolishing the marker price of $29 per barrel and reducing the prices of the high quality light oil by an average $1.35 per barrel, and the maximum to $28.90.

Minister al-'Utaybah said in a statement carried by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY that he was pleased with this agreement despite the opposition of three countries and Gabon's abstention in the voting. He also expressed his belief that this agreement will shortly have a good effect on the petroleum market.

It is worth mentioning that the countries that did not enter this agreement are Libya, Algeria, and Iran, with Gabon abstaining.

Kuwaiti Minister on Decisions

LD302124 Kuwait KUNA in English 1935 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Geneva, Jan 30 (KUNA) — Kuwait's oil minister said Wednesday evening after the Geneva emergency conference he hoped that Britain's North Sea oil prices would not be reduced and Britain would realize that it has as much to gain from a stable pricing system as OPEC. Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah told a news conference "if we engage in this game of price cutting, there is no end to it."

The Kuwait minister said he is confident the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) would behave responsibly in the market after the new pricing structure adopted by OPEC, but said it was "vital" for some form of restraint to be imposed on North Sea production. If the official price for Britain's crudes were to go down he warned, "we might have to reconsider our position."

Shaykh 'Ali said the nine OPEC countries which endorsed the lower price system and broke away from a reference price based on Saudi light, which was cut to 28 dollars, made up the majority of OPEC production. "It is the volume of traded oil that is going to affect the market most. I am heartened by the fact that even the market thinks positively of the agreement from the first indications we had." "I am convinced more than at any time in the past that the market, if we sustain present production, will improve dramatically toward the second half of February," he said.

The price changes made by the conference were not significant and had not reduced the OPEC weighted average price by very much. Although OPEC now has no reference price, all oils could easily be priced around the levels fixed in Geneva for the six major crudes, he said.

The descent in OPEC, which led Algeria, Iran and [illegible] to reject the Geneva agreement and Gabon to abstain, co[illegible] have been bridged, and he believed it would be bridged in the future, "the gap was not large between the two views."

The Kuwaiti minister said essentially the problem was that some countries had wanted Saudi light at 28 dollars with heavy crudes priced at 26.50, which is what happened, while other OPEC members had pressed for Arabian light to be no less than 28.50 and heavy crudes increased to as much as 27 dollars a barrel.

Shaykh 'Ali, confirming that Kuwaiti oil prices remained unchanged said he expected a four to five month period of stability on differentials, with a review by OPEC at its next scheduled conference in July.

Venezuelan Minister on Price System

PA310211 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Venezuela deplores the fact that there was no unity in the OPEC countries' decision to lower the crude oil prices. This was stated by Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti in Geneva, Switzerland. However, he said that he expects Algeria, Iran, and Libya to advocate a united decision in the near future. Furthermore, he gave no importance to the lack of a unanimous decision, saying that this has happened on other occasions.

Nevertheless, the decision is valid and it will contribute to stabilizing the markets to the benefit of the producers and consumers, Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said.

KUWAIT

Tanzanian President, Delegation Leave Kuwait

LD301053 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] At about 1200 today His Excellency President Julius Nyerere and the delegation accompanying him left from Kuwait international airport. He was seen off by his highness the amir, his highness the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and senior officials, as well as the dean of the diplomatic corps, the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait.

OMAN

Oil Minister Denies Changes in Oil Contracts

GF301642 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Muscat, 30 Jan (WAKH) — Omani Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari has denied any changes in Oman's contracts with its permanent oil purchases. He told *'UMAN* newspaper published today that the Sultanate had not made any changes in its declared price for its oil sales, or production rate.

He described as groundless and completely untrue a REUTER report claiming that the Omani Government had proposed a monthly change in oil prices according to the average price on the spot market.

Mr Al-Shanfari also denied a report claiming that a visit by representatives of 5 Japanese companies was aimed at contracting for Omani oil at a new price, describing the report as fabricated. He paid tribute to the mutual confidence between Oman and its oil purchasers, affirming the guarantees and facilities being provided by the Sultanate to fulfill its commitments.

QATAR

Belgian Crown Prince Departs Doha 30 Jan

GF301430 Doha QNA in Arabic 1335 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Doha, 30 Jan (QNA) — His Highness Belgium Crown Prince Albert left Doha today at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to Qatar. This was the final stop in his tour of the region that included the UAE and Kuwait.

SAUDI ARABIA

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Visit 29 Jan

JN301732 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Jeddah from Sanaa yesterday on an official visit during which he will meet with Saudi officials.

Brother Abu 'Ammar met with YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Sanaa yesterday. Our correspondent has learned that during the meeting they discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways of developing these relations. Our correspondent has also learned that during the meeting Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih affirmed the YAR's firm support for the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative.

Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar arrived in Sanaa from Aden following a visit to the PDRY during which he met with President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. They discussed the latest developments on all levels, bilateral relations, and ways of developing these relations.

Crown Prince Visits France, Meets Prime Mininster

For Paris coverage of the visit to France by Crown Prince 'Abdallah and his meetings with French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, see the France section of the 29 January Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

UAE

Somali Defense Minister Arrives 30 Jan

GF301636 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jan (WAKH) — Somali First Deputy President and Minister of Defense Lieutenant General Mohamed Ali Samantar arrived here today from Doha on a visit to the UAE as part of a Gulf tour.

Samantar said he is carrying a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre dealing with bilateral relations.

He also said that the aim of his visit to the UAE is to inform officials here about economic, military and security developments in his country. The visit will include consultations on regional issues. He also said that he will pay similar visits to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Delivers Presidential Message

GF301952 Doha QNA in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jan (QNA) — UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre pertaining to bilateral relations and the current situation in the Horn of Africa in general, and the situation in Somalia in particular.

The message was conveyed by Somali First Deputy President and Minister of Defense Lieutenant General Mohamed Ali Samantar to Abu Dhabi Heir Apparent and Deputy Commander in Chief of the UAE Armed Forces His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid. The Somali defense minister is currently paying a visit

to the UAE within the framework of a tour of a number of region countries.

PDRY

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Receives Hungarian Minister

GF310516 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has received Comrade Jeno Vancsa, MSZMP Central Committee member and Hungarian minister of agriculture and food, who conveyed to him a verbal message from Hungarian leaders, foremost being Janos Kadar, first secretary of the MSZMP Secretariat. The message expressed deep satisfaction with the development of cooperation and friendly relations between the YSP and MSZMP and the peoples of the two friendly countries, and other matters dealing with the further development of these relations.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues concerning the exchange of expertise and the development of cooperation in the agricultural field between the PDRY and the Hungarian People's Republic.

The brother general secretary expressed his satisfaction with the growth and development of the relations of cooperation and friendship between the YSP and MSZMP and the governments and peoples of the two friendly countries. He emphasized that the development of this relationship is in response to the principles and aims of both parties and the wishes of our two friendly peoples.

Mubarak Receives Message From Somali President

NC291702 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre pertaining to the situation on the Ethiopian-Somali border.

Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali was handed the message today when he received Lieutenant General Mohamed Ali Samantar, Somali vice president and defense minister, who arrived in Cairo yesterday.

'Abd al-Majid Meets With Tabah Delegation

NC302209 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2127 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid met tonight with members of the Egyptian delegation to the talks on the Tabah problem, which were held in Beersheba. The delegation was led by Assistant Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Badawi. The delegation briefed Dr 'Abd al-Majid on the details of the talks, which ended in Beersheba yesterday.

After the approximately 1 and 1/2-hour meeting between Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and the Egyptian delegation members, Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim said the delegation submitted a comprehensive report to Dr 'Abd al-Majid on the Tabah meetings and on the various positions presented there. He added: We will study the working papers submitted by Egypt and Israel during the Beersheba talks, as well as the ideas presented and the results achieved. When we complete this study, we will discuss what our next step should be. He announced that the talks will continue. Badawi added that a meeting took place between Brigadier General Faruq Labib, member of the Egyptian delegation, and the military members of the Israeli delegation. He said they discussed certain as yet unresolved questions, including the issue of the Palestinian refugee camp in Rafah.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid is scheduled to submit a comprehensive report to President Husni Mubarak on the results of the Beersheba talks tomorrow morning.

AL-AKHBAR Analyzes Need To Solve Tabah Problem

PM291621 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Jan 85 p 5

[Editorial: "Tabah: Not Subject to Negotiations"]

[Text] The Egyptian-Israeli talks on the situation in the Tabah area begin today in Beersheba in the presence of U.S. diplomats. For many reasons much importance is attached to these talks, which are taking place at a critical time. It is known that this problem concerns not the border between Egypt and Israel but just one international border marker that was placed in 1906. Moreover, a map attached to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty confirms the location of Tabah within the Egyptian border. News agencies said the day before yesterday that a map submitted by the Israeli Foreign Ministry in February 1982 places Tabah within Egyptian territory.

All this confirms Egypt's right to this part of its territory and also confirms that this right is not subject to negotiations or compromise. We wonder what makes Israel, which is always complaining about the lack of improvement in its relations with Egypt, cause problems over this matter.

Second [as published]: This issue, which has long been the subject of dispute between Egypt and Israel, is not in the interest of Israel itself. It would make the extremist elements in Israel take the opportunity to raise doubts about the value of peace between Egypt and Israel.

Third: Raising this issue prompts the Egyptian people to doubt Israel's credibility in honoring its obligations.

Fourth: Israel and the entire world realize that Egypt has adopted peace as its firm strategy. The ball is now in Israel's court and it is up to it to strive for Egypt's adherence to this strategy.

Fifth: The continuing dispute between Egypt and Israel, despite the peace treaty, could cause the moderate Arab countries to doubt Israel's intentions; Israel is constantly trying to prove its intentions regarding the need to achieve a comprehensive peace with its Arab neigbbors.

Sixth: The continuing dispute between Egypt and Israel could deal a blow to Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO's efforts to draft a joint peace strategy in the Middle East.

Therefore, we appeal to the Israeli officials, particularly Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, concerning the urgent need to adopt a logical and objective decision to resolve this dispute after studying the documents that Egypt has presented and that establish Egypt's objective right in Taban, particularly since Peres has already taken an objective decision to withdraw from southern Lebanon. This is particularly true since all the Israeli officials realize that, as we have already said, the territory of Tabah is not subject to discussion, negotiation, or compromise.

AL-AHRAM Examines Beersheba Tabah Talks

PM291625 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 28 Jan 85 p 7

[Editorial: "The Tabah Talks Are a Test of Intentions"]

[Text] The U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli tripartite talks on Tabah began in Beersheba yesterday. These talks will be a test of Israeli intentions toward Egypt and the cause of peace in the Middle East. All maps and data show that Tabah is Egyptian territory just as any other part of the Sinai which rejoined the motherland 3 years ago, but Israel has remained stubborn, used various futile pretexts, and has chosen to use the Tabah dispute as a way to undermine the peace to which all the states in the region and the world aspire.

For 3 years Israel has been fabricating one crisis after another. At one time it claimed that Tabah was an extension of Elat which grew into the neighboring territory during Israel's occupation of Sinai. It also claimed that Tabah is a very tiny spot of territory, a drop in the ocean compared to the rest of Sinai, which was given

back to us. Now Israel must realize that these claims and excuses are futile and it must fully understand that Egypt will not forfeit one inch of territory, not even one grain of sand. If Israel really wants peace and good-neighborly relations with Egypt then it has no alternative but to recognize Egypt's rights where there is no room for argument or haggling. By saying that the Tabah talks are a test of Israeli intentions, we mean that all other pending issues between Egypt and Israel could be settled peacefully if Israel showed good intentions and acknowledged Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah.

We do not want to indulge here in endless discussion on whether or not a multinational force should be deployed. What we have here is a case as clear as daylight: Tabah is Egyptian territory. It was occupied in 1956 and later regained by Egypt. Israel occupied it in 1967 and Egypt must have it back. There can be no haggling or compromise solutions.

Tanzanian President Visits Egypt 30 Jan

Arrives in Cairo

NC301337 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA) — Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere arrived at Cairo airport this afternoon on a brief visit to Egypt enroute to Kuwait and Athens. President Husni Mubarak was at the top of those who received the Tanzanian guest. The two leaders then held a session of talks at the airport to discuss the Middle East situation, some African problems, the OAU, and various international issues.

Departs Cairo

NC301427 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA) — Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere left Cairo airport at 1515 following a short visit to Cairo. During his stay, he held a 1-hour meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said the talks between the two presidents dealt with the strong character of bilateral relations. He added that the talks also touched on African problems and certain international issues.

Asked to comment on the outcome of the Tabah talks, the foreign minister said: I have not received a report from the Egyptian delegation yet. I will meet with the delegation this evening to review its report on the Tabah talks.

King Husayn, Delegation Begin State Visit

Arrive in Baghdad

JN301416 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1412 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA) --Jordanian King Husayn arrived here this afternoon on a visit to Iraq. The Jordanian monarch was accorded a grand official reception headed by President Saddam Husayn.

His majesty's delegation comprises Prime Minister Ahmad'Ubaydat, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and ArmyCommander Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir.

Meet With President

JN310712 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad — His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of Iraq held talks in Baghdad yesterday. They discussed main Arab issues, the Arab stand in light of the current developments in the Arab and international arenas, and ways of strengthening and developing cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

President Saddam Husayn reviewed the military situation at the Iraqi front, details of the recent battles which the Iraqi Army waged in the southern sector, and the victories achieved over the Iranian forces of aggression. King Husayn praised the increasing power of the fraternal Iraqi Army. He greeted the Iraqi leadership, Army, and people for their steadfastness and firmness in the face of the Iranian challenge.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Commander in Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad. They were attended on the Iraqi side by RCC member Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and foreign minister; and Ahmad Husayn, chief of the president's office.

President Saddam Husayn gave a dinner banquet in honor of his majesty the king. The king's accompanying delegation and senior Iraqi officials attended the banquet.

Depart Baghdad

JN311022 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1014 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA) — Jordan's King Husayn ibn Talal and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad this afternoon after a brief visit. His majesty the king and his delegation were accorded an official sendoff. President Saddam Husayn led those who saw the king off. RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, a number of the RCC members, the ministers, and the chief of the president's office were also present. President Saddam Husayn and the Jordanian monarch held talks here last night on bilateral relations and the Arab situation.

Military Forces Carry Out Offensive 31 Jan

Army Spokesman Makes Statement

JN310903 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our great Iraqi people, who have been defending their land and sanctities with a heroism that has become one of the bright features of our times, called on Iran's rulers, from a position of strength, to establish peace between the two countries; this stems from their sublime values, ancient heritage, and great ideals, which are embodied in the thought, policy, and practice of their great leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. However, the Iranian rulers insisted on continuing the war, ignoring their weakness, impotence, and collapse. Moreover, their grudges against our people and progress, as well as their expansionist intentions, which they are not ashamed to reveal, have blinded them to Iraq's crushing superiority. They continued their shameful policy, thereby exposing their own people to death and destruction.

In order to affirm Iraq's right to punish the aggressors, exercise its sovereignty, consolidate its devastating superiority, and teach the Iranian rulers a new lesson in good behavior, units of our formations opposite the 605th Brigade, in the 16th Division's sector, led by Brigadier General 'Abd Mutlaq Hamud al-Jaburi, within the 2d Army Corps sector, launched a sweeping attack at dawn today.

With a magnificent performance that shows meticulous planning and impeccable action and extremely high morale, our forces were able to carry out the plan drawn up for them by our inspired leader and reached predetermined positions. Praise be to God, our forces established themselves in their new positions after inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Our forces captured large numbers of remnant enemy troops. The rest fled, leaving behind large quantities of weapons and equipment.

Blessed is your victory O Iraqis. Blessed is the triumph of the 2d Army Corps: commanders, officers, and men. Woe to the Iranian rulers because of the anger of proud Iraq. Thank God for victory.

[Dated] 31 January 1985

Commander Cables President

JN311133 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0830 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] It is not ye who slew them; it was God: When thou threwest a handful of dust, it was not thy act, but God's: In order that he might test the believers by a gracious trial from himself: For God is he who heareth and knoweth all things. [Koranic verses]

To the president of the Republic, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Staff Marshal Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, from the commander of the 2d Army Corps.

Recently, the heroes of the 3d Army Corps, brought us the good tidings of victory in a unique battle that affirmed Iraq's ability, generousity, and determination to defeat the aggressors. In order to implement your sound instructions, our heroic formations from the forces of the 16th Division, carried out daring, successful attacks on predetermined targets at dawn on 31 January 1985. They occupied their targets, established themselves there, killed or captured great numbers of collapsing enemy troops, and destroyed a great number of enemy positions, guns, hardware stockpiles, and vehicles.

President, sir: Your heroic forces excelled in implementing their tasks. The heroic infantry men performed great deeds. They poured their fire on the enemy, transforming the battlefield into flames that burned the bodies of the rapacious invaders. Our brave infantry men, acting like angry lions, surprised the enemy and spread panic among enemy ranks, affirming their boundless ability and complete readiness to implement their combat missions. This shows our fighters' absolute conviction in eventual victory.

President, sir: We congratulate you on this clear victory and pledge to you as sincere men that the 2d Army Corps fighters will always be prepared to wage battle and defeat the enemy. Victory is given by the almighty God, and soon the unjust assailants will know what vicissitudes await them.

[Signed] The staff major general, commander of the 2d Army Corps, 31 January 1985

Commander Describes Battle

JN311205 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA) — Staff Major General Diya' al-Din Tawfiq, commander of the Iraqi 2d Army Corps, said that during the central sector battle at dawn today the Iraqi units took only 2 hours to occupy the Iranian positions.

In a statement to *AL-QADISIYAH* newspaper to be published here tomorrow, the commander adds: The infantry played a great role in this military operation. He explained that this battle resulted in the enemy's manpower, weapons, vehicles, and hardware stockpiles being destroyed. He pointed out that the Iraqi artillery provided great support for the Iraqi forces while approaching their targets. The 2d Army Corps commander asserted that this Iraqi military action is the decisive reply to the petrified mentality of the Tehran rulers.

Staff Brigadier 'Abd Mutlaq Hamud al-Jaburi, commander of the 16th Division, said that after fierce fighting at dawn today the Iraqi forces inflicted heavy losses on the Iranian forces, wounding, killing, and capturing large numbers of them. He pointed out that the Iranian soldiers who fled were the only ones to escape death or capture. He said that the Iraqi soldiers rushed to carry out their military duties and described them as torches lit by enthusiasm. He added that the Iraqi units are now stationed in their new positions and are ready to destroy any aggressive Iranian attempt against them.

Iranian Counterattack Repulsed

JN311527 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA) — Staff Brigadier General 'Abd Mutlaq Hamud al-Jaburi, commander of the 16th Division, has stated that Iraqi forces have repulsed an ineffective Iranian counterattack in the 2d Army Corps operational sector. In an interview he granted to Baghdad radio at an advanced post in the 2d Army Corps operational sector this afternoon, Al-Jaburi said that after completing their control in the offensive they launched this morning, the Iraqi forces were the target of an Iranian counterattack. However, they succeeded in destroying the attacking Iranian forces before they were able to reach the Iraqi forces' perimeters. He described the selected targets controlled by the Iraqi forces in the central sector of the battlefield as logistically important.

The Iraqi commander said that the Iraqi forces carried out the offensive within the time limit set and, waging splendid and fierce battles, scored a sweeping victory after crushing the Iranian forces. He added that the Iraqi forces occupied the selected targets, killing large numbers of Iranians and capturing others, while the rest fled, leaving their dead and weapons behind.

Communique No 1,727 on 29-30 Jan War Actions

JN301738 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Communique No 1,727 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 30 January 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Daily, our valiant Armed Forces are giving the criminal Khomeyniite gang hard lessons in good conduct and in the importance of respecting the logic of the age and the rules of international relations, particularly when dealing with great Iraq, which knows how to defend its sovereignty and its people's security. The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today;

1. Our gigantic Air Force scored a new epic that will be added to its multiple feats when, at 1445 today, it delivered an accurate and effective strike against a very large maritime target. Thus, the Sky Hawks confirm Iraq's irrevocable insistence on cutting off the aggressor regime's oil supplies until it submissively yields to the call for a comprehensive peace and recognizes Iraq's legitimate right to use the international Arab Gulf waters. The Sky Hawks returned safely and triumphantly with their aircraft, protected by God's attention.

2. With continuous efforts and relentless arms, our victorious forces in the operational sector east of Basra continued to deal painful blows to the collapsing enemy remnants. The brave artillery men were magnificent in this regard; their fire chased the movement of the enemy's personnel and vehicles, concentrating their destructive fire on the enemy positions and equipment

and inflicting large losses in personnel. The known enemy losses were 27 dead and several others wounded. Elsewhere, one enemy excavator, one large vehicle, and several positions were destroyed.

3. In continuation of our forces' victories, formations from our forward units in the Maysan sector directed concentrated artillery and mortar fire against a group of enemy infantrymen and positions, inflicting large human losses and destroying several positions. The enemy troops were heard shouting for help, and large fires were seen in other positions.

4. Two excavators were destroyed and two enemy troops were killed in the northern sector of the operational theater.

5. Fleeing the terrorist Iranian regime, fresh groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 January 1985

Military Spokesman Details Air Force Strike

JN301528 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1503 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In continuing to fight against the clique of evil and subversion ruling in Iran and for the sake of divesting this criminal gang of the remaining military and economic capabilities that lure it — as a result of ignorance and miscalculation — into continuing aggression against our country, the aircraft of our gigantic Air Force continue to search for vessels trying to infiltrate the exclusion zones in the Arab Gulf waters. At 1445 today, our aircraft discovered a very large maritime target. They delivered accurate and effective strikes before returning safely and successfully to base with God's help.

The Iraqi Armed Forces want to use the hard blows from all of their ground, sea, and air operations to force this Khomeyniite clique, which is deviating from the will of the international community, to return to reason and logic. These hard blows are the only method suited to the Tehran rulers' mental shallowness and sick, grudge-obsessed minds. It is God who grants success.

[Dated] 30 January 1985

3d Army Corps Chief Outlines Recent Battles

Statement to AL-QADISIYAH

JN310910 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0624 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA) — The commander of Iraq's 3d Army Corps has stated that after last Monday's battle the Iraqi forces are in control of extremely important military positions. In a statement to *AL-QADISIYAH* newspaper published today, the commander added that the corps' units are currently consolidating their gains, fortifying their positions, and taking complete control of the area.

The commander pointed out that the southern sector battle, which followed a three-pronged Iraqi offensive, was carried out with exemplary combat performance and in record time, which will have adverse phsycological and morale effects on the Iranian enemy and its collapsing forces.

On the Iranian forces' attempt to regain their lost positions, the commander said that these forces launched many attacks but most of the attacking forces were wiped out. Very few of them returned, he added.

Interview With AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT

PM301656 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jan 85 pp 1, 2

[Qasim al-Samawi report: "Iraqi Commander Tells *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*: The Operation Was Carried Out on Land and Water]

[Excerpts] Baghdad — The Iraqi forces have gained control of new Iranian areas in a three-pronged blitzkrieg in the southern sector of the front.

According to *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*'s Baghdad correspondent, the military operations covered the Hawr al-Huwayzah area including the flooded Majnun Islands, part of which had been occupied by the Iranian forces.

In a telephone interview with *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* yesterday evening Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid said that the operation was carried out on land and water simultaneously. The water part of the operation was carried out in the Majnun Islands, he said, whereas the land part was in the area of Shalhat al-Aghwath in the direction of Al-Muhammarah. The aim was to push the Iranians out of certain areas, especially the sand barriers in the middle of the flooded areas as well as the area of (Ghazil). He added: After President Saddam Husayn's approval of the plan submitted by our corps, the target areas were occupied. We also pushed forward into another area east of Basra to the south of Makhfar Zayd, and also east of the (Khiyim) Canal on the Iranian side. We also combed other areas along the Hawr and east of the direction of Huwayzah.

Asked if the operation has ended, Maj Gen Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid said these operations will never end unless the Iranians listen to the voice of reason and peace.

On the Iranian losses, he said: On Monday morning I saw hundreds of dead bodies and twice as many wounded. I also saw bodies floating on the water along with thousands of weapons which are still being counted.

Statement to AL-SIYASAH

GF302010 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 29 Jan 85 pp 1, 22

[Excerpt] Iraqi Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, commander of the 3d Army Corps, in a telephone statement to the *AL-SIYASAH* office in Baghdad, has said: "We have the

proper medicine to tackle conspicuous ambitions against Iraq and the Gulf countries. The general command gave us defined directions to carry out a deterrent operation on land in addition to the current deterrent [operations] in the air and at sea; this was done after the command had granted the Iranian side numerous chances to resort to logic and accept peace."

Staff Maj Gen 'Abd al-Rashid divulged that during the past few days his forces dealt painful blows to the Iranian forces stationed opposite the positions of the 3d Army Corps.

He said: "Our action on the eve of the day before yesterday and early yesterday was a painful blow. The enemy has to realize that such actions, which should be viewed as unexpected due to our defensive position, will occur again whenever we decide to execute them on land."

He added: "The Iranian shelling of civilian targets in Basra shows its weakness in confrontation with Iraqi forces and in fighting them on the battlefield." He went on to say: "The Iranian side will find no further chance for procastination in order to attain its ambitious goals. It will pay dearly in return for its intransigence and arrogance."

In conclusion, he said: "We are soldiers of the battlefield. With the Almighty's power and the determination of our leader, wewill resort to a position that will force our enemy to turn to peace."

Khark Siege Seen Hurting Iranian Economy

JN301431 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] London, 30 Jan (INA) — Iranian opposition sources here told INA today that the Khomeyni regime has decided to reduce imports due to the large deficit in the Iranian budget caused by the Iraqi siege of Iranian oil ports, particularly Khark Island.

The sources said that available information indicates a considerable reduction in Iranian internal and external deposits in the wake of the decrease in Iran's oil exports following Iraq's intensification of the siege of Khark Island and Iranian ports, and that the Khomeyni regime has reduced the importation of foodstuffs and commodities while continuing to import weapons. The opposition sources stressed that Iran is suffering from an acute crisis in foodstuffs throughout the country, and that many products have disappeared from the local market. They added that Iran is unable to pay its debts to the countries with which it is dealing because of the shortage in hard currency.

JORDAN TIMES Comments on Sharaf Resignation

JN310833 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jan 85 p 4

[Editorial: "A Debate in Progress"]

[Text] When Mrs. Layla Sharaf was appointed Minister of Information in January last year, she gathered journalists to explain her policies. "With policies like these," she told a group of them at the end of a lively discussion, "I doubt I'll last a year in the cabinet."

And she was right of course. Mrs. Sharaf must have known all along that change could not come easy — especially the kind of change she sought for the work of the media in the country. This is life in politics — always difficult and never void of challenges. But, we do hope and at the same time feel confident that the minister's resignation is not the end of her service to the country — king, people and government.

Why Mrs. Sharaf had to leave has been a subject of intense debate and discussion in Jordan over the past few days. Many people have become aware of the difficulties she faced in carrying out her duties, but only a handful of us have actually heard from the government its side of the story. Probably we need an open discussion on the subject. The prime minister might want to say something about it; and parliament will no doubt raise the issue, possibly in today's planned session.

Jordan may well be an infant democracy, but the kingdom is by no means a small fiefdom. His majesty the king is one of the wisest men on earth today, and the whole world attests to the quality of his leadership. Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat's government is not infallible; only God is; but it is a good government, honest and sincere. Our people may not be the most civilised and advanced in the world; but we have, throughout the years, proved our mantle and surmounted most obstacles. Our love for this country and its leader is unquestionable; our sincerity for a better future and a better society cannot be doubted.

We can all conduct a positive debate and reach responsible conclusions. Mrs. Sharaf's resignation is an issue that concerns us deeply and directly. It must not go unnoticed nor should it be put on the backburner. It is being discussed by almost everybody in town, at our homes and in our offices. Why don't we admit its significance and discuss it publicly?

Forward-looking people face their problems head-on, and a progressive society like ours cannot afford to shy away from difficulties and snags surrounding it. Why not share the heavy burden that each and every one of us has to carry? Things around us will not improve unless and until we all have understood the need to work together and collectively. Problems will not disappear because we just like them to go away. The effort of everybody is needed to build the kingdom into the strong and prosperous country that we all want it to be.

Energy Ministry Cited on Hamzah Oil Wells

JN302037 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Wealth — the Natural Resources Authority — has said that work is actively underway at the Hamzah oil well in the Azraq region, and that well No 3 is now under control.

The No 3 well showed high oil pressure that exceeded the capability of the well's protection equipment and posed a great threat. This has been overcome by the Natural Resources Authority's technical department with the assistance of two well-known experts from the Iraqi National Petroleum company, who were called in from Iraq for this purpose and who played a major role in getting the well under control. The source added that high capacity protection equipment is currently being brought from Iraq to be installed at this well. Afterward, work will be resumed in February in order to complete the well and assess its capacity.

At the same time, pumps were installed at the Hamzah wells No 1 and No 2. Oil has been pumped from these two wells to the Jordan Petroleum Company storage tanks which were installed at the site for this purpose. The source expressed the hope that the oil will gradually be transported from these tanks to the refinery beginning next month. He said that work is actively underway at the Hamzah oil wells No 4 and No 5, and that it is hoped that those wells will be completed before the middle of this year. He said that the authority expects 10 wells to be drilled at the Hamzah field this year. He added that he hopes this field will be able to meet part of the kingdom's oil requirements, beginning in 1985 and 1986, and that the capacity will be increased after that. The source affirmed that reports carried by some newspapers a few days ago were inaccurate.

Prime Minister Karami Concludes Visit to Syria

Highways To Open

NC301618 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has concluded his visit to Syria. In so doing he noted that it was agreed to open the Beirut-Damascus and Beirut-Tripoli highways, in an effort to provide greater mutual access, and to help overcome the economic crisis.

Karami said that it has been agreed to retain the composition of the present Lebanese Government, to attain the common goal of a united Lebanon. The prime minister also said that it has been agreed to consolidate security in West Beirut, on the coastal road, and in Iqlim al-Kharrub, so that the south may be entered when Israel begins to withdraw.

Meanwhile, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has stressed the need to strengthen the unity of the regime in Lebanon, saying that everyone has agreed that this is the proper course of action. Khaddam also emphasized the decisions announced by Prime Minister Karami.

Talks With Al-Asad

NC301939 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The Cabinet will hold its weekly meeting at the Presidential Palace in B'abda tomorrow under the chairmanship of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. The session will also be attended by Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the other ministers. The session was postponed by a day due to Prime Minister Karami's 2-day official visit to Damascus.

Prime Minister Karami's talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials ended today. The prime minister and his delegation returned to Beirut at 1815.

Two ministers, Dr Salim al-Huss and Nabih Birri, returned to Beirut tonight; Minister Walid Junblatt, accompanied by members of the National Democratic Front, left Damascus for Libya.

A 4-hour plenary meeting involving 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Karami took place in the Syrian vice president's office. Ministers Salim al-Huss, Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, former Minister Marwan Hamadah, and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also attended. The participants followed up on the talks which Karami held with President al-Asad and senior Syrian officials.

The discussions dealt with ways of eliminating obstacles preventing the implementation of solutions in the field. Special emphasis was placed on factors blocking the implementation of the coastal highway plan between Al-Madfun, Al-Awwali, and Sidon, the plan in Iqlim al-Kharrub, and the Beirut security plan. The talks also dealt with the Israeli occupation forces withdrawal from Lebanon.

Well-informed sources expected the meeting to have positive results in this area, particularly in regard to Beirut. Prime Minister Rashid Karami made this statement after the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Karami] I said that our mutual interests, as well as Syria's constant support for Lebanon in its ordeal and in the difficulties it is facing, are the motives for such meetings to discuss possible solutions for advancing Lebanon's march toward salvation.

This prompted our discussion with His Excellency President Lieutenant General Hafiz al-Asad, whose views, experience, and understanding of the Lebanese question make us able, through appraisal and analysis, to draw up the guidelines that will put Lebanon on the right path.

Therefore, we thank him and express appreciation for his concern and attention. We followed up on these talks through a meeting with his vice president, Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. That session was attended by my brothers, the ministers who share the responsibility of seeking and executing all that we agree on. This was today's topic, and we have dealt with it in the past as well.

We agreed on the need to continue our cooperation in this march, the responsibility for which we assumed to achieve our common goals in a Lebanon united for liberation. We also seek to consolidate the security plan, particularly in West Beirut, along the coastal highway, and in Iqlim al-Kharrub before entering the south when Israel begins its withdrawal.

We also seek to reopen the Beirut-Damascus highway and the Beirut-Tripoli highway, so that all areas will be accessible. This will help bring about an easing of the economic crisis, one of our government's principal goals.

We will continue our work and follow-up efforts to put all these solutions into actual practice in the field. Our brothers, those ministers influential in these areas, have pledged to do this. This should, God willing, bring about the welfare we want for our people.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Karami] It is natural to say that whenever agreement is reached on a certain step or action, its implementation should begin. This is what we will do when we return to Beirut. However, as I said, we will follow up on the work in light of the agreed-upon plan.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Karami] This question was agreed upon earlier. I outlined the lines of our moves. This is a final commitment and work will continue in light of it.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Karami] We will do whatever is in Lebanon's interest. When we see that the time is right for such tours, we will, of course, make them. [end recording]

Cabinet Meeting Postponed Until 2 February

NC302054 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] A responsible source announced tonight that a decision has been made to postpone the Cabinet session scheduled for tomorrow, 31 January. The meeting will now be held on Saturday, 2 February.

Soviet Envoy Cited on Al-Naqurah Talks

NC301632 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1508 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil met for the second time in 2 weeks today with the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, Aleksandr Soldatov. The 1-hour long meeting at the B'abda Palace was attended by two senior diplomats of the Soviet Embassy in Beirut.

Discussions were held within the context of consultations which the president is holding with countries directly concerned with the Lebanese crisis, especially the superpowers. Discussions also touched on Lebanese-Soviet bilateral relations, but there was an emphasis on the Al-Naqurah military talks and on the Israeli decision to stage a partial withdrawal from the south.

Soviet Ambassador Soldatov briefed the president on his view of the Israeli position, and he reaffirmed Soviet support for Lebanese position and the approach of Lebanon to the Al-Naqurah talks. He also reaffirmed Soviet support for Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty, and for the restoration of government control over all Lebanese territory.

President al-Jumayyil outlined the position of Lebanon on the Al-Naqurah talks and its insistence on its sovereignty over its territory, and its demand for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces to the internationally recognized borders. He stressed that Lebanon would assume its full responsibility in view of the Israeli withdrawal, and expressed hope that Lebanon enjoyed the support of most countries, including the two superpowers, in the effort it is exerting to liberate its territory in cooperation with the United Nations.

President al-Jumayyil said that while Lebanon assumed its responsibility, it was up to world community to also assume its responsibility.

In a statement on emerging from the B'abda Palace, Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov thanked the president for the interview and for the exchange of views on political questions related to conditions in Lebanon.

The Soviet ambassador paid tribute to the position of the president, and reiterated the full support of the Soviet Union for independent and united Lebanon, sovereign within its territorial borders. He said that the Soviet Union fully supported the efforts of Lebanon to regain its sovereignty, and he urged all Lebanese to stand behind these efforts in order to give the Arabs and the world the opportunity to support Lebanon. He called for the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

The veteran Soviet diplomat said that he was optimistic about the future and he urged the Lebanese to stand together as a united front. Soldatov paid a special tribute to the role of Syria on the Lebanese scene.

The Soviet ambassador described the Israeli soldiers as aggressors and recalled that UN resolutions required their unconditional withdrawal, with UN forces to monitor the Lebanese border to prevent the return of the aggressors to Lebanon, and to prevent any shelling or violation of the Lebanese airspace.

Al-Turk Meets French, Czechoslovak Envoys

NC301638 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1508 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] The role of French observers in supervising implementation of the security plan for the coastal area and Iqlim al-Kharrub was discussed at the Foreign Ministry today. The ministry secretary general, Fu'ad al-Turk, met for this purpose with the French ambassador, Ferdinand Wibaux, and reviewed with him diplomatic moves related to the Israeli withdrawal from the South and to the role of the observers. In a statement later, the French ambassador said that contrary to local press reports, France was not seeking a role for the observers, but rather responding to an urgent request from Lebanon. He said that his country was concerned to help Lebanon within the framework of the friendship between the two countries.

Secretary General Fu'ad al-Turk then met with the ambassador of Czechoslovakia, who reported that a Czechoslovak economic delegation, headed by the deputy foreign trade minister, will arrive in Beirut on February 10 to sign a Lebanese-Czechoslovak financial agreement, and to conduct talks on the purchase of Lebanese agricultural products.

PSP Criticizes Recent Military Promotions

NC301827 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party's [PSP] General Secretariat issued a statement today, spelling out the party's position toward the recent promotions in the public security apparatus, the Army, and the Internal Security Forces.

The PSP General Secretariat warned the regime's administration against following factional procedures and taking biased measures which clearly demonstrate the Phalangists' hegemonic designs. These designs, the PSP General Secretariat added, seek to deprive the people of their rights and to place all resources at the service of those in the regime.

Israeli, Lahd Forces Attacked in South

NC301522 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Israel's withdrawal from the south has been associated with terrorist practices. At the same time, nationalist and Islamic

resistance fighters continue escalating their operations against the occupation forces.

A post held by the agent Lahd's militiamen in Harat Sayda was attacked this morning with rocket and machinegun fire. Our correspondent in Sidon reports that three men staffing the post were killed or wounded. One rocket hit a halftrack, putting it out of action.

An enemy assembly point in southern Al-Zahrani was attacked with rocket and machinegun fire. According to unconfirmed reports, a katyusha rocket was fired after the attack, causing heavy losses among the Zionist soldiers.

A second post held by members of the agent Lahd's militia near Harat Sayda came under rocket attack this morning. The details are unknown, since the area was sealed off.

Resistance fighters attacked a post manned by the agent militiamen in Srifa at midnight last night. Seven members of the garrison were killed or wounded. The fighters held the post for 10 minutes before returning safely to base after the arrival of Israeli reinforcements.

Shells Fall on Al-Ashrafiyah, East Beirut

NC310713 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1630 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] The eastern residential areas were again the victim of random bombardment, which took by surprise pupils and employees heading for their schools and offices. Shortly after 0705 today, about five or seven projectiles crashed on residential areas in Al-Ashrafiyah [in East Beirut], almost directly hitting the schools of Zahrat al-Ihsan, the Evangelica School, and the school of the Sacred Hearts Sisters in Sinn al-Fil.

Reports spoke of six casualties, including a Sri Lankan national. They were rushed to the St George hospital for treatment of minor wounds.

A security official revealed that the source of the criminal bombardment was a mobile artillery piece positioned in the sector of Qasqas on the western side of the demarcation line.

Further Coverage of Visit of Lebanon's Karami

Damascus Talks, Departure

JN301559 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Rashid Karami, Lebanese prime minister; Dr Salim al-Huss, minister of labor and education; Walid Junblatt, minister of public works, transport, and tourism; and Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction, at 1000 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Talks dealt with the situation in the Lebanese arena in light of the talks held yesterday between President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami. A detailed review was also made of issues related to bolstering the government's unity, promoting the process of security and accord in Lebanon, and pooling efforts toward liberating the Israeli-occupied Lebanese territory. The conferees also discussed security issues, the Damascus-Beirut road, and the coastal road. They shared common viewpoints and agreed to a number of important steps and measures aimed at consolidating Lebanon's ruling regime and security.

Rashid Karami and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon after a visit to Syria, during which they met with President Hafiz al-Asad and held talks with several officials on the current situation in Lebanon. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm led those who saw Karami off at the Marksmanship Club. When the motorcade carrying the Lebanese prime minister and Dr al-Kasm arrived at the Marksmanship Club, Karami shook hands with the two deputy prime ministers for services and economic affairs and with the ministers. The Lebanese and Syrian national anthems were then played. Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Karami inspected a guard of honor that saluted them. At the end of the ceremony, Dr al-Kasm bade farewell to Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Karami, Khaddam News Conference

JN301935 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Jan 85

["Full proceedings" of news conference given by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam following their 30 January meeting in Damascus — videorecorded]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified Reporter] You have had lengthy talks with His Excellency President al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Could you tell us about the atmosphere of these talks?

[Karami] I have said that the common interest and Syria's stand, which always supports Lebanon in its ordeal and difficulties, are the incentives for such meetings, with the aim of discussing the anticipated solutions for promoting Lebanon's march of salvation. Hence, we held talks with His Excellency General Hafiz al-Asad, whose insight, experience, and sympathy with the Lebanese question enable us, through evaluation and analysis, to draw up the general outlines which help place Lebanon on the care.

We continued these talks with His Excellency Vice President Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in the presence of my brothers the ministers, who are participating in shouldering responsibility in terms of discussing and implementing everything on which we have agreed. Today's discussion was a continuation of the previous discussions. Opinions agreed on the need to continue cooperation and support for the march, the responsibility for which we shouldered with the aim of achieving unified objectives in a united Lebanon for the sake of liberation and entrenchment of security — particularly in West Beirut, on the coastal road, and in Iqlim al-Kharrub — so that the south may be entered when Israel begins to withdraw, and so that the Beirut-Damascus and Beirut-Tripoli highways may be opened and the areas linked. This helps ease the economic crisis, which has become one of our government's main targets. Through all of this, we will continue to work for the sake of putting all of these solutions into real and practical implementation on the ground. The brother ministers, who constitute a practical working group on the ground, are committed to this. God willing, this will herald the good we wish for our people.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, after meeting with President al-Asad and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, did you agree to specific dates for opening of the Beirut-Damascus and Tripoli-Beirut highways?

[Karami] It is natural to emphasize that whenever agreement is reached on a certain step or action, it will begin to be implemented. This is what we will take care of as soon as we return to Beirut. As I have said, we will continue to work in light of the agreed upon plan.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, have you agreed to a unified concept regarding the Al-Naqurah talks?

[Karami] This matter was previously agreed on. Yesterday I announced the lines through which we are moving. This commitment is final, and work will continue in light of it.

[Reporter] One last question, Mr Prime Minister, is your visit to Damascus a prelude to an Arab tour you may undertake?

[Karami] We will do all that is in the interest of Lebanon. When we find that time is suitable for such tours, we will certainly make them.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr Prime Minister.

['Abd al-Halim Khaddam] During the president's meeting with Brother Karami yesterday, there was an evaluation and study of the situation in Lebanon, with all its security, political, and economic aspects as well as matters related to the Israeli enemy's withdrawal from the Lebanese territory. In this evaluation, there was one conclusion, that we should all work to bolster the Lebanese Government's unity so that this government can achieve the aims for which the national unity government was established — to achieve the Israeli withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories; attain national accord; spread the state's

sovereignty over all Lebanese territories; and achieve security, stability, and tranquility for all the Lebanese. As a result of the discussions, it was agreed to contact Brothers Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, and Salim al-Huss to hold another meeting to discuss all these affairs.

As Brother Prime Minister Karami has said, we met for several hours and discussed all aspects of the situation. This meeting was marked by the spirit of a feeling of national responsibility, and viewpoints were in agreement on the need to bolster the government unity and to implement a series of security measures in West Beirut, and in opening the Beirut-Damascus and the coastal highways as inevitable steps toward spreading the sovereignty of the state and its institutions throughout Lebanese territory. I can say that these discussions, characterized by optimism, will be a good step in the right direction.

Further on News Conference

JN302057 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Rashid Karami, Lebanese prime minister; Dr Salim al-Huss, minister of labor and education; Walid Junblatt, minister of public works, transportation, and tourism; and Nabib Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction, at 1000 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Khaddam talked to reporters, and said: During President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with Brother Karami yesterday, there was an evaluation and a study of the situation in Lebanon, with all its security, political, and economic aspects as well as of matters related to the Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territory.

In reply to a question, Khaddam said: There are several reasons for the painful economic situation in Lebanon, the two most important are — security and the absence of the feeling of responsibility by those who began to speculate in the Lebanese currency and economy. If the government manages to deal with this situation, I believe that the Lebanese economy will embark on the correct path.

The vice president stressed that the enemy's forcible announcement of withdrawal from Lebanon means that the Lebanese question has made a very large stride forward, and that the Zionist enemy announced its withdrawal only as a result of the escalation of the Lebanese nationalist resistance. There is no doubt, he said, that this is a victory for Lebanon and will help promote the march of national accord.

In reply to a question, Khaddam stressed: All affairs pertaining to the internal Lebanese situation and the relationships among the parties and organizations, are affairs to which we are not a party. According to President Hafiz al-Asad's directives, Syria's role is to promote the process of security, unity, accord, and stability in Lebanon. This is Syria's general policy. As for the contacts among certain sides, this is another matter. Our role is to help all sides work for accord and reconciliation, and not in another direction.

Regarding the security situation in Beirut, Khaddam said: Issues were discussed and agreed on by all participants in these meetings. There was an agreement to them in advance, as we know, by His Excellency President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami. All of these issues will be presented to President Amin al-Jumayyil so that they can be implemented. Several issues were discussed and agreed on. We hope that they will be implemented shortly.

Replying to a question on the Arab arena, particularly after the eighth Ba'th Party regional congress, and especially since there are new axes trying to encircle Syria, Khaddam said: The party's eighthregional congress stressed and bolstered Syria's political line, which is based on steadfastness in the face of the Israeli aggression and providing the requirements of this steadfastness, as well as steadfastness in the face of the U.S.-imperialist schemes and providing the requirements of this steadfastness. Syria is not encircled, and no one can encircle it. Syria is strong through its principles and through its pan-Arab and progressive polices. Subsequently, those claiming to be encircling Syria are the ones who are encircled by their defeatist policy.

He added: We witnessed such axes in the fifties. However, they all fell, and the pan-Arab liberation trend remained the prevailing trend in the region and is confronting the haughtiest Zionist and imperialist onslaughts. We are confident of the future and reassured about it. We are strong because of our people's unity, and because of the ability and determination we possess. No one can encircle Syria or play the game of encirclement with Syria. The future is for the Arab nation and its objectives.

Replying to another question on an agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States, and on the future of the Middle East question in light of this agreement, Khaddam said: There never was a U.S.-Soviet agreement. At a certain stage there was a state of detente in international relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. This state then shifted into a state of tension. What is happening now is an attempt to restore the state of detente in international relations, and not to achieve accord. This is because the deep contradiction between the two states does not allow an agreement to be established. We are reassured that our Soviet friends will use any state of detente in a manner that serves the Arab nation and bolsters its struggle and rights.

At the end of his statement, the vice president talked about the Zionist withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He stressed that it will be good if this withdrawal takes place. Otherwise, the Lebanese nationalist resistance against the Israeli occupation will continue, and will escalate. We are confident that this resistance will achieve their national aims of evacuating the Israeli enemy from all the Lebanese territories.

Iran's Rafiqdust Departs Damascus Following Visit

JN302130 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 30 Jan (SANA) — Mohsen Rafiqdust, Iranian YRIA H 3Damacus this evening following a visit of several days to Syria during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. He

was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Comrade Ahmad Diyab, several officials, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Asad Accepts People's Assembly Nomination

JN302014 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi; and Assembly members Dr 'Ali Rida, Nazim Qaddur, Munir Shahlah, Ghassan Rajab, and Yasin Utabashi, have conveyed to President Hafiz al-Asad the people's Assembly decision approving the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command's decision to nominate the president for a new constitutional term of office. The decision was conveyed when the president received the members of the People's Assembly office at 1400 this afternoon.

On behalf of the People's Assembly, Mahmud al-Zu'bi expressed pride in this decision, which expresses the people's entrenched confidence in President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership and our people's desire to continue the march along the road of construction and liberation under his wise and brave leadership.

The president thanked the Assembly members for their trust, and said that he accepts this nomination in response to the people's wish, as represented by their Assembly. He said that, as always, he accepts the responsibility the people will entrust to him in the coming referendum, as long as it expresses the people's will. He affirmed that the task of building the homeland and liberating the occupied territory is a collective responsibility that makes it incumbent on every citizen to assume his full responsibilities.

The following is the text of the People's Assembly decision:

The People's Assembly, after taking cognizance of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command's decision to propose the nomination of Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as president of the republic for a new constitutional term of office, beginning on 13 March 1985 and continuing for 7 years; and after taking cognizance of the resolution of the special committee formed by the Assembly to consider the nomination proposal, decides to approve the nomination of Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as president of the SAR for a new constitutional term of office, beginning on 13 March 1985 and continuing for 7 years. This nomination shall be put to a public referendum.

AL-THAWRAH Calls on Lebanese To Achieve Accord

JN311120 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 31 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* deals with the march of reconciliation and liberation in Lebanon and the new steps to bolster this march.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that it is natural for the salvation march in Lebanon to face some difficulties and obstacles, but it is important that the sincere Lebanese efforts should converge and agree to remove and bypass difficulties. This will result in achieving the greatest national target — liberating Lebanon from the Israeli occupation, providing security and stability in Lebanon, and achieving accord among the Lebanese people so that Lebanon can resume its role within its Arab environment.

The newspaper adds: The intensive contacts among the various Lebanese parties within the framework of the national unity government confirm this trend. The success of the efforts being exerted to achieve national accord and deepen security and stability, as well as to remove the osbtacles facing the implementation of the drawn-up and approved security plans, will help to shorten the various phases and will save time and effort, whether in terms of liberating the south, or completing the entire salvation march. The fact that this march has been able to make further progress after the abrogation of the 17 May agreement must be an incentive to all the Lebanese to continue the sound steps in the march toward salvation and accord. This progress is forcing the Zionist invaders to adopt a decision to withdraw from Lebanon, since the presence of the Israeli forces in the Lebanese morass means inflicting further human and material losses on these forces and subjecting the Zionist entity to more tremors that would undermine its domestic situation. The Zionist officials admitted this fact when they indicated, in public statements, that the Israeli forces are unable to stay in the southern Lebanese hell. This proves that the escalation of the Lebanese national resistance operations and the bolstering of government unity in Lebanon are able to force Israel to withdraw without restrictions or conditions that would harm Lebanon's sovereignty and unity.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Syria, that stood and is still standing by Lebanon, will continue its support and provide the necessary assistance to achieve accord among all the Lebanese parties to boslter the salvation march. The Damascus meetings are an important step along the path of liberating Lebanon from the Israeli invasion, achieving accord among the Lebanese, and deepening and providing security and stability to all Lebanese citizens.

Reportage on Progress of IDF Withdrawal From Lebanon

Post-Withdrawal Warning Issued

TA301020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] The Foreign Ministry director general convened the heads of the diplomatic representations in Israel this morning and warned them about the situation that may come about in Lebanon following the IDF's withdrawal, given that Lebanon refuses to coordinate the entrance of its Army into those areas to be evacuated. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the meeting was held in coordination with policy makers in the government. Kimche stressed that Israel holds Beirut and Damascus responsible for what may occur.

Withdrawal To Cost $60 Million

TA301154 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Major General Hayim Erez, the Army's quartermaster general, told reporters this morning that the IDF redeployment in Lebanon is going according to plan and that stage one would be completed by 18 February. The estimated cost of the entire operation will be about $60 million. Tony Gadot reports:

[Begin recording] By the end of this week, most of the heavy equipment will have been removed from the area to be evacuated by the IDF; equipment that is either impossible or uneconomical to remove is being destroyed. The only physical signs on the ground following the pullback will be the roads built by the IDF. Equipment essential for the final 3 weeks will be withdrawn at the last moment. Most of the equipment is being returned to Israel, where it is already being refurbished.

General Erez estimated the cost of the withdrawal to be some $60 million. The overriding factor in the pullback has been security. Every vehicle has an armed guard and moves only in convoys during daylight hours. The convoys move under heavy guard of tanks and armored personnel carriers.

Although the present pullback is being completed without the call-up of reserves, General Erez expects that the reserves will be needed for the next two stages, but within the framework of yearly reserve service. The detailed plans for part one of the withdrawal were drawn up in 3 days and were based in part on the withdrawal from Sinai in 1982. Those plans are being reviewed and revised daily. [end recording]

IDF Blows Up Bunkers

TA301351 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1325 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] In pouring rain, Engineer Corps soldiers today blew up bunkers and caves used by the terrorists in Al-Sarafand 'Arab Salim in southern Lebanon to prevent the terrorists from becoming entrenched in the area following the evacuation. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that six sites were involved. The bomb disposal experts used 2 tons of explosives, mainly old mines. Our correspondent notes that the IDF has completed the evacuation of all the equipment from the area to be evacuated in the first phase of the withdrawal. A large number of Army forces are guarding the area.

ASL To Leave Sidon

TA310948 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 30 Jan 85 p 5

[Report by Ilan Yitzhayeq]

[Text] "The army of southern Lebanon [ASL] will evacuate the area it is presently holding in the town of Sidon even prior to the IDF evacuation of the town." This is what senior IDF liaison officers in Lebanon said this week.

The ASL will move to the temporary line along which the IDF will be deployed until the final pullback from Lebanon. The ASL's withdrawal from the Lebanese western sector is meant to enable it to receive continued IDF support. Senior IDF and ASL sources believe that the ASL is not yet strong enough to stand on its own in the Lebanese arena, and it was therefore decided that its troops should be withdrawn even prior to the IDF withdrawal.

5 Terrorists Killed in Recent Clashes

TA301732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Five terrorists were killed yesterday and the day before in clashes with IDF forces in Lebanon. Our forces did not sustain casualties in these incidents. Four terrorists were killed yesterday in a clash with an IDF force northeast of Jazzin and two days ago an IDF force killed a terrorist who tried to operate a bomb on the shoulder of the coastal highway. To repeat, our forces did not sustain casualties in either incident.

Reserves Call-Up Exercise Begins 30 Jan

TA301420 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] The IDF General Staff announces that the public call-up exercise for the mobilization of reserves is to begin now. The order is as follows: Reserve units and forces whose code names follow, are to report for reserve service immediately upon the issuance of this order, to the places specified earlier by their commanders.

Owners of equipment and vehicles attached to specified codenamed units are called upon to place their equipment and vehicles at the disposal of the Army immediately upon the issuance of this order, at the places specified earlier by an authorized mobilazation officer or commander.

The following codenamed units are called up for the exercise: Galut Ashur [Assyria Exile], Mo'ed Same'ah [Happy Feast], Pirqey Shira [Song Verses].

The order is signed by Major General Dan Shomron, the deputy chief of staff and the head of the General Staff's Intelligence

Staff, in his capacity as mobilization officer according to military service law 5719 [1959 in Gregorian Calendar] according to the consolidated version, clause 26 of the law, and in his capacity as mobilization officer according to emergency regulations — registration and mobilization of equipment of 5717 [1957], clause 6 of the regulations, and on the occasion of the public call-up exercise now underway. [announcement is read again]

Shamir: No Territorial Concessions for Peace

TA311145 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that settlement in Judaea and Samaria should not be allowed to suffer more than other economic sectors from financial distress, and believes that more money should be allocated to it. Addressing heads of the settlements south of the Hebron Mountains, Shamir also said that Israel will not give up any part of Eretz Yisra'el in the framework of peace negotiations.

He stressed that after the establishment of the national unity government, voices — mainly those of our neighbors — were heard in our region, expressing the belief that this government is different from the former ones and will be ready to give up parts of Eretz Yisra'el. This, however, is an illusion, and whoever thinks in this vein should stop doing so as soon as possible, the vice prime minister said.

Sharon Comments on Trial, Lebanon Withdrawal

TA301851 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Commerce and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon returned to Israel this evening, following a month-long absence for his libel trial against *TIME* magazine. At an airport news conference, Sharon said he had achieved these three goals that he had set for himself — to prove that *TIME* magazine had lied, to ensure recognition of this, and to serve as a warning for the future. Tony Gadot reports:

[Begin recording of Gadot remarks picked up in progress] ...if he will continue his feud against the magazine here in Israel. As minister of Commerce and Industry, he said that he is proud to have been a partner to the second package deal agreement, and while Israel's economic problems have yet to be overcome, he believes that the agreement will go a long way to resolving the problems.

On the Tabah issue, Sharon said that he is pleased that the Egyptians have finally agreed to meet with Israel, but emphasized that Tabah was never part of Egypt. Sharon evaded my question on whether he will try to have the Cabinet decision on withdrawal from Lebanon either revised, annulled, or defeated in the Knesset. He stated that there are four conditons for securing peace for the Galilee — a 30-km security belt, the deployment of the south Lebanon army with Israeli advisers in that belt, freedom of movement for the land, sea, and air forces, and a deployment of the United Nations' troops north of the security belt. When I protested that he had not answered my question, he refused to reply and concluded the press conference. [end recording]

Popularity of Peres, Shamir, Sharon Polled

TA301308 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Jan 85 p 13

[Modi'in Ezrahi public opinion poll]

[Excerpts] Forty-two percent of the public think that Shim'on Peres is the most suited for the position of prime minister. Following a sharp increase in popularity from July through October 1984, and a moderate increase in November, this month Peres' popularity has stabilized.

In contrast, the downward trend in Yitzhaq Shamir's popularity is continuing, with only close to 9 percent of the public finding him the most suitable candidate for the position.

On the other hand, Ari'el Sharon's popularity for the premiership rose slightly. These findings emerge from a public opinion poll conducted under the guidance of Professor Yohanan Peres for *MA'ARIV* by the "Modi'in Exrahi" research institute, directed by Dr Micha'el Etgar.

Peres has in fact at present become the accepted leader among the majority of Alignment supporters (approximately 70 percent). He also enjoys a certain amount of support among Likud voters (approximately 15 percent), and the undecided ("the floating votes").

Shamir, in contrast, at present only has the support of approximately 24 percent of the Likud voters, and hardly has any supporters among the Alignment or the "floating votes."

Despite a slight drop in popularity, Yiga'el Hurvitz continues to lead as the most suitable candidate for finance minister in January 1985, enjoying 23 percent of the public's support. Yitzhaq Moda'i registered a 3-percent drop in popularity, signifying changes among other possible candidates.

However, the number of undecided interviewees increased. Moda'i enjoys the same level of popularity among Likud and Alignment voters.

The poll was conducted from 1 to 14 January 1985 on 1,163 people constituting a representative sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel, with the exception of inhabitants of kibbutzim, Judaea, Samaria, and the Golan Heights.

Knesset Approves Price Control Law for Goods

TA301449 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1445 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] The Knesset has approved in its third hearing the price control law for goods and services. This law will prevent prices in the second package deal from increasing at a rate higher than agreed upon by the partners to the package deal.

U.S. Companies Agree to $200 Million Offset Deal

TA311056 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Jan 85 p 1

[Report from Washington by Ze'ev Baraq]

[Excerpt] U.S. military equipment companies will buy parts worth $200 million from Israel this year. This was decided in talks Defense Minister Rabin held in Washington. The reference is to an offset deal.

Party Executives Meet To Discuss West Bank Safety

TA301922 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] The Executives of the Likud, Tehiya, the National Religious Party, and Morasha have decided to hold a joint meeting with Rabbi Levinger this coming Monday at the latter's site in Al-Duhayshah so as to express solidarity with his struggle. They also announced they will raise the issue of safety on Judaea and Samaria roads on the Knesset's agenda and demand that the government provide real deterrence and penalty for the inciters who threaten Jewish lives.

W. Bank Prison Brutality Report Angers Military

TA310644 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Israeli military sources reacted angrily to a report by the International Commission of Jurists on a prison facility. The report on the Farah Youth Detention Center near Nabulus was prepared by the International Commission's West Bank subsidiary, Law in the Service of Man. Over to Jerry Cheslow:

[Begin recording] [Cheslow] The report entitled Torture and Intimidation in the West Bank deals with the Farah installation near Nabulus. There, young detainees are interrogated, mainly in connection with the stoning of Israeli vehicles. The report is based on sworn affidavits from 20 former inmates. One of the heads of Law in the Service of Man, Roger Shihadah of Ramallah, says Farah uses brutality to obtain confessions.

[Shihadah] In Farah there are allegations that detainees are asked to stand for long periods of time, kept hooded, put in very inhuman situations. So the condition in Farah is one of intimidation and treating the prisoners and the detainees inhumanly.

[Cheslow] Shihadah says that most of this evidence is not corroborated by doctors because the kind of treatment the inmates receive leaves no marks. However, he points out that a captain serving at Farah was convicted of brutality 1 year ago.

Israeli military sources have reacted angrily to the report. They term it a web of false claims and baseless facts originating from hostile organizations making cynical use of legal organizations to spread their biased opinions. Shihadah, however, asserts that his organization is unbiased. The military sources further stress that Farah is supervised by Israeli military and civilian legal bodies, and that the International Red Cross has free access. [end recording]

'Black Panther' Offshoot Movement Established

TA291926 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] The old leadership of the Black Panthers has announced the establishment of a new group called The Movement for Struggle - 1985. The announcement came at a press conference in Jerusalem this afternoon. Dan Eisenberg reports:

[Begin recording] [Eisenberg] Many an angry word has passed between Charlie Biton and Se'adya Marciano since the heady days of the Black Panther Movement in the early 1970's, but today they sat together, along with Jerusalem City Council representative Dada Ben-Shitrit to announce the establishment of a new movement to fight for the rights of the underprivileged in the development towns, and what is known in Hebrew as the shekhunot, the public housing developments where immigrants from Arab-speaking countries were housed in the 1950's and 1960's. The organizers distributed a 14-point program in which they promised to fight against growing unemployment, the deteriorating economic situation of large families and newlywed couples, and the erosion of the wages of the working class.

Dada Ben-Shitrit warned that those in the Israeli society with the most to fear from the new movement were the Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria. Ben-Shitrit and the others spoke out strongly against the government's decision to build six new settlements in the territories. Se'adya Marciano, a Labor Party candidate for the 11th Knesset, says Labor had reneged on its campaign promises. Victor Harush, a social worker from Beersheba, called the government a government of national catastrophe.

Many groups and individuals have expressed their support of the new movement, including Michel 'Atlan, a member of the Eretz Hatzevi faction of MAPAM.

['Atlan] We don't have any problem with identifying with every word they said, and we hope that not only words would be said, but also action, and we hope to meet in the streets together.

[Eisenberg] The movement says it will soon be holding an organizing convention in Jerusalem and will then hit the streets. [end recording]

Morning Press on Outcome of Tabah Talks

TA311002 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *HA'ARETZ* says that one could infer from the negotiations in Beersheba that Egypt was willing to come to terms with the presence of Israeli police in Tabah, as long as this presence is concealed in the terminology of the agreement between the parties. For its part, Israel is willing to agree to the

presence of any multinational force. This could apparently be the point of departure for the evolution of an agreement which would leave the question of sovereignty pending until it can be settled at a more convenient time. It is hoped that the United States will use its influence on the Egyptian president, during his visit to Washington next month, to secure such a technical arrangement. Neither Israel nor Egypt will benefit from their determination to strive for a decision on the dispute over a meaningless piece of land.

THE JERUSALEM POST writes that unfortunately, the Egyptian authorities have led the Egyptian public to believe that Tabah is a huge chunk of land which a recalcitrant Israel is holding back, in violation of the peace agreement. Having so brainwashed their people, the Egyptian authorities have narrowed their options. As a result, conciliation may not be a real prospect. Little wonder, therefore, that the Egyptians prefer arbitration. On the other hand, if Israel's case was as iron-clad as some Foreign Ministry experts believe, the Egyptian proposal presumably would be snapped up. Yet it is probably in the nature of the issue, involving as it does such a small area, that any lines drawn on any historic maps would not easily be translated into agreed lines on the ground.

Jerusalem Arabic Criticizes Karami Government

JN301712 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 30 JAN 85

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners, Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami has described the relationship between Syria and Lebanon as that of twins. Karami's statement, made yesterday at the start of his recent visit to Damascus, will undoubtedly bring sardonic smiles to the faces of all who know the facts. I do not know if Karami believes that he can deceive or mislead people with his statement. Does Karami believe that there is anyone, other the naive ones inside and outside Lebanon, who does not know the true course of Syrian-Lebanese relations since he became Lebanese prime minister?

The exposed secret, or rather the truth that is supported by resounding pieces of evidence, is that under its present government, Lebanon has become firmly tied to the Damascus rulers' bandwagon, out as a tail, rather than a twin of the Syrian Ba'th regime. Karami can undoubtedly congratulate himself on this historic achievement for his country and people. The Damascus rulers have certainly become more appreciative than ever before of his success in fulfilling his role as their high commissioner, and in contributing to their design of gradually transforming Lebanon into a protectorate or statelet revolving in Syria's orbit.

If Lebanon's course, and the speed with which this course has been adopted under Karami's government, are known, what is not known is the answer to the worrying question: To what new infernal depth is Karami leading the Lebanese people?

It is currently known that all the achievements Karami claims he has so far attained may confirm that these achievements are mere tranquilizers. This is because all the pieces of evidence and indications imply that the main cause of the ailment has not been remedied, and that the original, principal causes for Lebanon's tragic dilemma continue to exist.

The latest proof of this was Minister Salim al-Huss' resignation from Karami's government. The fact that he was later convinced to change his decision does not mean that motives prompting him to resign have been resolved. These motives resulted from the inability of the Karami-Amin al-Jumayyil government to tackle the true causes of the tragic, bloody dilemma through which the Lebanese people have been fumbling for nearly 10 years. What makes things worse is that Lebanon is now experiencing an unprecedented economic deterioration, to the extent that the Lebanese pound has lost half of its value under the Karami government.

If Rashid Karami discussed the deteriorating Lebanese economy with the Damascus rulers yesterday, one can definitely say that the Damascus rulers are not in a position to extend financial assistance to Lebanon, because they themselves need such assistance to solve their economic problems. However, they can undoubtedly teach Karami some of the secrets of their skill in embezzling money from the leaders of the rich Arab countries.

SWAPO Official Comments on Struggle at OAU Meeting

AB300912 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Delegates to the 43d session of the OAU Liberation Committee will meet today to consider some resolutions on Namibia and South Africa. At yesterday's sitting, discussions centered on the report of the General Policy Implementation and Defense Committee and the Administration and Finance Committee.

In an interview with the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation before the session, the interim leader of the South West African People's Organization delegation, Mr Aaron Shiuhepo, said the attempt being made by the apartheid South African regime to hand over all government portfolios to a puppet regime in Namibia is only one further attempt by the racist regime to deny the people of Namibia true independence.

Mr Shiuhepo, who is a member of the SWAPO Central Committee and the deputy secretary for foreign affairs, said no other movement apart from SWAPO is fighting South Africa inside Namibia.

Mr Shiuhepo said the armed struggle being waged by SWAPO has been so effective that it has led to areas in central and southern Namibia coming under SWAPO control.

Mr Shiuhepo said the signing of the troop withdrawal agreement between South Africa and Angola has not hampered the activities of SWAPO in any way. Rather, it has exposed the desperate position of the racist regime.

On the question of how soon Namibia would attain independence, he said the territory would be free sooner than expected.

OAU Liberation Committee Preparatory Meeting Ends

AB310815 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] The preparatory meeting of the OAU Liberation Committee ended in Accra last night after a 4-hour sitting behind closed doors. The two standing committees — Policy Implementation and Defense, and Finance and Administration — adopted after amendments and approvals two resolutions on South Africa and Namibia. The resolutions and reports of the standing committees will be presented to the 43d OAU Liberation Committee session, which is expected to open tomorrow, for final adoption.

So far, delegates from 20 members countries, 9 observer nations, and 3 liberation movements are in Accra for the meeting. There are also observers from the Organization of African Trade Union Unity and the UN Council on Namibia.

ALGERIA

SWAPO's Nujoma Condemns Western Maneuvers

LD301152 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Algiers, 30/1 (APS) — Mr Sam Nujoma, chairman of South West African Organization, granted yesterday at the international airport, a press conference in which he reaffirmed his organization's will to carry on the struggle up to the implementation of the Resolution 435 of the Security Council over Namibia's total independence.

Mr Nujoma, further, condemned the Western countries, particularly of Namibia, especially by imposing the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as a prerequisite for Namibia's independence. In this context, Mr Nujoma reaffirmed his utter support for the proposals and conditions laid down by President Dos Santos before the withdrawal of Cuban troops. The conditions, SWAPO chairman said, mean the immediate withdrawal of South African troops from the Angolese territory, to stop backing the men of UNITA and the implementation of the Resolution 435.

As for the latest developments of the Namibian and the African levels, Mr Nujoma said the situation is increasingly being damaged due to the terrorist acts by Pretoria racist regime which aims principally at weakening the Namibian people by inducing it to give up backing SWAPO.

Mr Nujoma pointed out that his visit in Algeria falls in line with a tour in many African and Arab capitals so as to explain the Namibian question. It is worth noting that SWAPO chairman ended a visit in Algeria during which he was audienced by President Chadli Bendjedid, and was seen off at his departure by the member of the Permanent Secretariat of Central Committee, External Relations.

LIBYA

Bulgaria's Filipov Arrives in Tripoli for Talks

LD302337 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1920 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Jan [JANA] — Grisha Filipov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, arrived in Tripoli today at the head of a delegation on a 4-day visit to the Jamahiriyah. They were welcomed at the airport by Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, a number of secretaries of the General People's Committee, heads of the political missions in the Jamahiriyah, and a number of armed officers.

In a statement to JANA on arrival, Filipov affirmed the depth of relations of friendship and cooperation which bind the Libyan Arab and Bulgarian peoples together, relations whose foundation was laid by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Chairman Zhivkov.

He pointed out that his visit to Jamahiriyah will center on the bolstering of cooperation in the various fields. He added that close friendship between the two countries and peoples will get stronger in the future.

'Angry' Demonstrations Against U.S. Maneuvers

LD301744 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] An angry popular demonstration took place this morning in Tripoli against the provocative exercises by the U.S. 6th Fleet in Egyptian territorial waters opposite the shores of the Jamahiriyah.

Huge crowds marched in this demonstration shouting slogans which express the Libyan people's will in defiance of all provocations, and opposition to all those who want to harm the people's authority and the revolutionary achievements realized in the Jamahiriyah thanks to the Great al-Fatih Revolution and its leader. The demonstrations raised slogans denouncing the U.S. Government and the collusion of the Egyptian hireling regime with that government in carrying out these provocative exercises.

The angry demonstration marched to the Belgian Embassy, which looks after U.S. interests in the Jamahiriyah, where a statement was read outside the embassy strongly attacking the Reagan administration, affirming that it is practicing terrorism and that the Libyan Arab people will not be intimidated by threats and provocations, and will decisively deter all who want to harm them and all their enemies.

The demonstrators denounced the stance taken by the agent Egyptian regime, in collusion with the U.S. Government, and affirmed that the Egyptian people will not be lenient with this hollow regime, which has squandred Sinai and Tabah and submitted to the Zionist enemy, and has become a pawn in the hands of the politicians of Washington.

The statement affirmed that the Libyan people will not be alone in the trench fighting the enemies, and will defend their freedom to the end, side by side with all living revolutionary forces. The statement said that the U.S. fleets will not intimidate us, and we will not be intimidated by the voice of the coward Reagan; we will not abandon our weapons and will not abandon our help to those struggling for freedom.

We tell our people in Egypt: Advance to punish the traitors.
We tell our people in Sudan: We are with you.

To imperialism and Zionism who use Egypt and Sudan as bridgeheads we say: Our masses will transform their anger into a deluge; our people will remain a fatal stone in the U.S. kidney and an arrow which penetrates the heart of Zionism.

An angry popular demonstration was also staged in the town of (Furman) this morning, which denounced and condemned the provocative U.S. exercises being carried out by the U.S. 6th Fleet. Masses of the basic popular congresses in the town participated in this demonstration. The demonstrators issued a statement denouncing the Reagan government and its terroristic policy against the peoples struggling for freedom and who reject

imperialist domination. The statement affirmed that the Libyan Arab people will not be intimidated by the U.S. provocations and will always be ready to impose their will to remain free in confronting all enemies.

General Giap, the Vietnamese vice premier, participated in the angry popular demonstration staged this morning in Tripoli and which denounced the provocative exercises by the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Egyptian territorial waters opposite the shores of the Jamahiriyah.

Popular angry demonstrations were staged also yesterday in Sabha and Ujaylat, denouncing the provocative exercises by the U.S. 6th Fleet inside the Egyptian territorial waters, northeast of Tubruq. The demonstrators carried slogans denouncing the acts of terrorism being carried out by the U.S. Government, and affirming the readiness of the Libyan Arab people to confront all hostile actions.

The demonstrators affirmed that the U.S. Government is spreading terrorism at an extensive level to threaten the freedom and stability of peaceful peoples. The masses of the basic popular congresses in Sabha and Ujaylat, in statements issued following the angry demonstrations, reaffirmed their permanent readiness to carry out the death order in defense of their freedom and popular authority and achievements, which were realized thanks to the Great al-Fatih Revolution in all walks of life.

SUDAN

Minister Denies Transporting Jews to Israel

GF301640 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Manama, 30 Jan (WAKH) — Sudan denied transporting Ethiopian Jewish refugees to Israel through its territories, and blamed Ethiopia for trying to drive a wedge into Sudan-Arab relations.

In a statement to the GULF NEWS AGENCY, Sudanese Information Minister 'Ali Muhammad Shammu regretted reports published by the Arab press on Sudan's involvement in the Falasha incident, saying Ethiopia, which was deeply involved, was not criticized by the Arab press. The Sudanese minister admitted that Falasha refugees were given the option of leaving Sudan for any country, but not Israel.

He added that four million Sudanese were facing starvation due to drought, and confirmed that no relief aid had been given from the United States, International Red Cross, and other world organizations.

SPLA Radio: Armed Struggle Only Hope for Masses

EA301901 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Jan 85

["With the Battalions" program]

[Text] Our revolutionary armed struggle remains the only hope for the oppressed and exploited masses of Sudan. The Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], which came into existence nearly 2 years ago, has continuously been fighting actively against the minority clique regime in Khartoum. This progressive nature of the current war in Sudan clearly indicates that the SPLA will never give up this specific commitment to overthrow Numayri's reactionary government and subsequently establish a united socialist Sudan.

Our revolutionary armed struggle is the only hope for the oppressed and exploited masses of Sudan. This argument follows the statement made by the SPLA-SPLM leader, Col Dr John Garang de Mabior, during his recent speech to the SPLA fighters, in which he said — and I quote — We concentrate on armed struggle because the power of our enemy depends on the gun, unquote. In that same speech, the leader of SPLA-SPLM made it clear in the following words: If defeating the enemy requires us to have an army of 100,000 or 1 million soldiers, we will have that.

This elaboration of the present reality precisely points to the fact that seriousness should always be involved if our revolutionary army must win the war against the enemy. Actually, we have to look out and guard against all tricks and confusions which the Khartoum government tirelessly designs and employs to obstruct the people's struggle. It has usually been the practice of the reactionary government in Khartoum to divide the Sudanese people by preaching racial, tribal, and religious differences. This policy had been one of the fundamental factors contributing to failures of the people's revolutionary struggle that preceded the SPLA-SPLM.

With this appearance, our revolutionary movement must not in one way or another fail to unite the Sudanese people, and to rid the country of the minority regime whose philosophy is only to perpetuate the sufferings of our people and destabilize the country.

The SPLA, which is the vanguard of the Sudanese revolutionary struggle, will always remain constructive and direct its activities to the task of liberating the entire country, which is its primary objective. When this goal is realized, our revolutionary forces will have to build a new Sudan and provide permanent, and even socioeconomic development, in the country. We must equally have to destroy those institutions which the enemy has created through decades of its rule in Sudan to undermine the unity of our people.

Opposition Groups Invited To Unite in Struggle

EA302226 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Station Commentary: "War Zone No 1 and the National Scene"]

[Text] As fighting intensifies in the south, which is Zone No 1 for the SPLA, most people are prone to think that the fighting itself is the only serious problem facing the country today. This way of viewing the present crisis in the Sudan mistakes the effect for the cause. The war, which has virtually engulfed the southern part of the country, partly because oppression and exploitation have

been very acute here, and partly because the terrain favors guerrilla warfare, is one of the many ways the Sudanese people have been, and continue to express [as heard] their opposition to the 25 May regime for its role in either failing to solve the problems its predecesors created, or in compounding and adding new ones.

The most serious of these crises has been the failure of all the various governments that have come and gone in Khartoum to create a viable and modern state in the Sudan, of which all citizens could be proud and to which they would voluntarily pay their loyalty. Even in the absence of national unity, which is the vital ingredient in the life of any stable state, Khartoum has been unable since independence to do the simplest job, which both poor and weak countries do to their people — the provision of adequate and basic services to the citizens from which [as heard] it collects taxes.

There has been a constant criticism of central authorities in Khartoum for their neglect of the people in the west, east, and the south as if all the citizens in the northern and central Sudan are satisfied with their lot. These regions are by all accounts backward and have been left at the mercy of poverty and ignorance. But it is also true to say that the majority of the Sudanese people in the central and northern Sudan, and even in the capital city, share most of the economic hardships being experienced by their fellow countrymen in other regions of the Sudan.

With the coming to power of the May regime, with its emphasis on giving more to those who have abundance, the life of the ordinary Sudanese has become a burden, even for the skilled workers and the professional clerks. This has led to the migration of the skilled and semi-skilled work force to countries where pays [as heard] are relatively high. The brain drain has naturally impoverished the already low quality of services, particularly in education and public health.

Related to this problem is the failure of the May regime to encourage production, which has resulted in severe scarcity of essential commodities, such as food. Perennial shortages of basic goods escalates their prices, and that means the majority of the working people are unable to buy food, clothes, medicine, or rent decent houses for their families. And when people complain about these daily problems, the (?unfeeling) regime, which relies heavily on the use of the police and detention, without charge or trial to intimidate opposition, replies to criticisms by either threatening professional associations, such as the doctors' or lawyers' unions, with punishment, or by framing up false accusations against what it always refers to as external conspiracies against the state.

And the (?cowed) nation, which has now been reduced by actual or potential use of brute force to the state of absolute helplessness, like a fettered and (?desperate) person, simply watches the few and irresponsible people in positions of power drive the country into further poverty, moral decay, and virtual anarchy.

The few Sudanese who now occupy and misuse public offices are determined to remain in control in order to continue enriching themselves illegally. Abusing them, or demonstrating in the streets against them, will not remove them from power. Concrete action is needed if the will of the people is to triumph. That demands that all oppressed people, and those Sudanese who believe in that just cause, forget their differences and unite in a national upsurge.

We in the SPLA-SPLM have already taken the difficult but correct step — the revolutionary action. We are ready to cooperate with any group opposed to the May regime, provided that this group abandons more [as heard] talking and resort to armed struggle, which at the same time is unitary and progressive.

SPLA Radio Claims Raids on Bor, Akobo

EA301402 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1318 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] We interrupt this program to bring you the following information which we have just received from the front. On 28 January 1985, the SPLA forces, under the command of Major Benjamin (Nyankuoth) raided Bor town, the capital of Jonglei Province. The raid was carried out by units of Cobra Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant (Yai Agolo Yai), Lieutenant Paul (Kul Deng), and Lieutenant (Kul Deng Kul). In this operation, 10 enemy soldiers were killed and 35 wounded. The SPLA losses were one hero killed in action and five wounded in action.

On the same day, the SPLA forces, under the command of First Lieutenant Daniel (Ayual), raided Akobo town.

TUNISIA

Opposition Leaders Cited by LE MONDE

PM301353 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Jan 85 p 5

[Michel Deure dispatch: "Relations Between Government and Opposition Constantly Deteriorating"]

[Text] Tunis — Relations between the government and the opposition parties have grown considerably more tense in recent months, and there is no sign of this tension being eased in the near future.

Despite the assurances Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali gave in a recent statement to Tunis weekly *DIALOGUE* on the "irreversible, logical, and voluntary" character of the democratic process started under his leadership in 1980, the whole opposition thinks that this process is in increasingly serious jeopardy.

The Communist Party recently expressed the view that we are now witnessing "a return to the spirit of a single-party system, to political monopoly, and to the government's rejection of any serious dialogue." The Islamic Tendency Movement, which is asking with growing impatience for recognition as a party, makes an identical analysis on this point, protesting "the government's about-face on the few concessions made in favor of political democracy and information." It also protests the authorities' refusal to reinstate in their jobs around 100 of its members who were pardoned or released after serving prison sentences for their political activities, and who have just announced their intention to start a hunger strike to obtain satisfaction.

The Movement of Social Democrats (MDS), whose National Council met in Tunis last weekend, has been led to the same conclusion. "Since the realization of the people's legitimate demand for political pluralism, it must be noted that the authorities have scarcely displayed the goodwill anticipated for implementing this decision," it states in a communique. The MDS believes that for several months it has been the target of numerous "pressures and harassments," and cites transfers and dismissals of its members, the banning of some of its meetings — even inside its premises — the burning down of some of its provincial sections' offices, the suspension of its weekly newspaper *AL-MOSTAQBAL*, and the seizure a few days ago of its French-language bimonthly journal *L'AVENIR*.

Official circles explain that the measures were taken against the two newspapers because of articles deemed defamatory to the local and regional authorities, which the MDS accuses of allowing the attacks on its members and premises to develop with "an undeniable partiality." The same circles downplay these incidents, which they usually attribute to petty local quarrels. Mentioning them, Hedi Baccouche, director of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party's Political Bureau, remarked: "This party is deeply rooted in the people, who in some regions do not allow the presence of opposition movements; it is not surprising that they should encounter difficulties."

The explanation is not very convincing, and in any case, Ahmed Mestiri categorically rejects it. So, while asserting that he will not change his line, "for a democratic change by lawful means," he intends to study "new forms of action" to tackle obstacles he is encountering; he wishes to set up "a liaison committee" with the other opposition parties with a view to "a nationwide joint initiative."

If it is not regressing, as is asserted officially, the democratization of the system undertaken 4 years ago therefore seems at least to be marking time. Like the authorities, the law-abiding opposition movements were indisputably overtaken in January 1984 by the grave events following the announcement of the increase in the price of bread; if not to take over the popular dissatisfaction, then at least to better "latch on" to it — they then radicalized their stances. The government, which had just tackled the gravest crisis it ever experienced, responded to this hardening with equally tough attitudes. So it is, month after month, from communique to speech, the escalation has continued.

But the "bread revolt" is very probably not solely responsible. Moreover, Mr Mzali lifts a corner of the veil when, in his statements to *DIALOGUE*, he stresses: "I still believe that those who, in good or bad faith, urge going too fast are in fact bound up with those who have not yet digested the gains of the past few years."

The prime minister says no more about this, but in his circle it is intimated that "those who have not been digested" are recruited, not only from the ranks of the extremist opposition groups more or less openly seeking the country's destabilization. Nostalgic for the recent past, they exist even within certain government circles, where the "opening up" has not always aroused enthusiasm. And the eternal problem of the succession to Mr Bourguiba, which frequently interferes in political life, complicates the debate somewhat further.

Nevertheless, a bright spot has just taken shape in this rather heavy atmosphere. After "raising the bidding" at a congress, whose conclusions seemed intransigent, the Tunisian General Federation of Labor Trade Union Confederation — one of the best organized forces in the country — has just assumed dialogue with the government, and the social tension of the past few months seems to be easing.

Industrial Cooperation With PRC Discussed

PM301403 Tunis L'ACTION in French 25 Jan 85 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Examination of Possibilities for Cooperation in Industrial Sphere"]

[Text] National Economy Minister Rachid Sfar had a meeting at his ministry 23 January with a Chinese economic delegation from the Shanghai Company for Technical and Economic Cooperation with Foreign Countries, headed by the company's director Huang (Shuigeng). The Chinese delegation is now visiting Tunisia to examine the possibilities for Tunisian-Chinese cooperation in the industrial sphere.

Addressing his Chinese guests, Rachid Sfar expressed satisfaction with the positive development of bilateral cooperation in several spheres. In this connection he recalled the recent signing of the agreement on the chemical fertilizer complex to be built in China. This project, Mr Sfar said, is one of the positive results of the visit which Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali made to China, and which gave a new boost to the fruitful cooperation between Tunisia and China.

Mr Sfar revealed that the method used for implementing this cooperation is decisive for the attainment of the intended objectives. He therefore stressed the need for the two sides to take account of the real needs of the two countries' markets, the adaption of the technology used to the needs of these markets, and the possibilities of joint exports.

Furthermore, it is this same sound approach, the minister also said, which was behind the success of the project for the chemical fertilizer complex to be built in China.

It should also be noted that the contacts established by the Chinese officials with several Tunisian enterprises have led to the signing of agreements in principle for feasibility studies on joint industrial projects for the needs of the Tunisian market and for export. A program of further contacts to be established between the partners has been drawn up.

ETHIOPIA

GDR's Rauchfuss Visits Kembolcha Textile Factory

EA302352 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Comrade Wolfgang Rauchfuss, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers and Central Committee member of the German Socialist Unity Party, today visited the Kembolcha textile factory in Welo region. Comrade Engineer Tsegaye Habtih Yimer, head of the factory, gave briefings on the activities of the factory to Comrade Wolfgang Rauchfuss, who was accompanied by Comrade Adis Tedla, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and deputy chairman of the Central Planning Committee.

On arrival at the factory's compound, Comrade Wolfgang Rauchfuss and Comrade Adis Tedla were met by Comrade Namo Bahta, deputy minister of industry, and GDR and Ethiopian workers working in the industry. Present during the ceremony were members of the Ethiopia-GDR Scientific, Technical, and Economic Commission; Comrade Jember Berhanu, revolutionary Ethiopia's ambassador to the GDR; Comrade Commissioner Aklilu Afework, head of the production sector at the National Central Planning Committee; and other officials.

It is remembered that the GDR has greatly contributed towards the construction of Kembolcha textile industry.

In another development, Comrade Wolfgang Rauchfuss today inspected the Bati shelter station in Kalu Province and listened to briefings by the coordinators.

Briefs

Polish Helicopters, Food Arrive — The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission [RRC] today received 164 metric tons of food concentrates from the government and people of Poland to be used as aid to drought victims. Three Polish Red Cross helicopters, which will transport various types of food aid and materials to drought victims for a specified time, have been received by the RRC together with the food aid at Aseb port. [Summary] [*Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 30 Jan 85 EA*]

KENYA

Briefs

Cattle Disease Outbreak — Mandera, Jan 28 — Due to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Mandera, quarantine has been imposed on the district, effective immediately. [Summary] [*Nairobi KNA in English 0845 GMT 28 Jan 85 EA*]

Cholera Cases Confirmed — Kitui, January 30 — Five positive cases of cholera have been confirmed at Kitui District hospital. Most cases, according to the district medical officer of health, Dr William Jimbo, are from Yatta division, which borders Machakos District. He declined to comment on those who have died from the disease, but said appropriate measures are being taken by the health officials to control the situation. Dr Jimbo has appealed to wananchi to observe hygienic measures such as washing hands before eating, using toilets and boiling drinking water. He also cautioned wananchi to avoid unnecessary hand shaking. He said the suspected cases of cholera should be taken to the hospital or to the nearest health centre immediately. [Text] [*Nairobi KNA in English 1700 GMT 30 Jan 85 EA*]

SOMALIA

Halgan: Government Downs 1 Plane; 2 Others Crash

EA301911 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Reports reaching us from Mogadishu say that the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] air defense forces downed one of their own aircraft while two others collided in mid-air and crashed.

The aircraft that was downed by the SDR air defense forces, which belonged to the Air Force, took off from (Gelidodleh) airbase, which is situated northwest of the capital, Mogadishu. It was heading toward Mogadishu but was downed by the SDR air defense forces when it entered Mogadishu airspace. The reason for the plane's being downed by its own forces is that it was suspected that the plane was going to bomb the office of dictator Siad Barre and other installations important to the Siad regime in Mogadishu.

Further reports from Mogadishu say that this week two Chinese-made MIG-19's belonging to the Somali air defense force collided in mid-air and crashed. The two MIG's collided while on a training flight, and according to reports the collision was caused by the lack of proper training for the pilots left to man Siad's Air Force and the aircrafts' low quality.

The warplanes of Siad's air defense force, which are few in number, are grounded because of lack of maintenance. It is known that 20 people, including pilots and engineers, one of whom is a South African girl, were sent to the Siad regime by the Boer regime of South Africa to help it revive the Siad Air Force, to prepare them and make them ready for combat. This is part of the agreement between Siad and Pik Botha. The aircraft that collided are those that were repaired by the South Africans.

CHAD

Ndjamena on Libyan Attempt To Kill Habre

AB302158 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpts] While the Security Council was holding its meeting at UN headquarters and the Chadian foreign minister was presenting the complaints against Libya, here in Ndjamena, the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation presented the white paper on Libya's recent (?plots). The document, titled "Al-Qadhdhafi's Terrorism in Chad," exposes the abortive plot against the president of the Republic and members of the government.

In view of the importance of the matter and in order to inform everyone, the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation invited ambassadors accredited to our country to a meeting. He told the diplomatic corps that a plot was foiled on 26 September 1984. The intention was to bomb the conference room of the Council of Ministers on Thursday, 27 September, at a time when the members of the government were supposed to be with the head of state. A bomb placed in a briefcase and taken into the meeting room of the Chamber of Commerce exploded during the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 27 September. [sentence as heard] Investigations carried out showed that the bomb was of Libyan origin. The investigations even went further to reveal the place were the bomb was manufactured. Thus, the Chadian security agents were able to learn that the bomb that was to have killed the members of the government was part of a consignment of 15 explosives and that the 14 others are certainly somewhere, waiting to be used for barbaric purposes characteristic of Libya.

This abortive heinous crime is not the start of Al-Qadhdhafi's chain of terrorist acts against Chad. Already in 1981, Korom Hamet said, a mini-bomb placed in a packet of cigarettes was detected in Ndjamena. The bomb was for the same purpose: To kill the head of state, Hissein Habre.

In light of these facts, the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation concluded: It has been established that Al-Qadhdhafi stops at nothing in pursuing his terrorist acts and committing the dirtiest deeds. He said it was necessary that international opinion be informed of this. Mr Korom Hamet, who handed over a copy of the white paper on the last assassination attempt to each diplomat, told the ambassadors to inform their respective countries of the magnitude of the Libyan plot. It will be noted that the document in question contains interesting facts and includes pictures of bombs discovered as well as the identity of the persons bought over by Libya to place the explosives.

After the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, the minister delegate to the Presidency of the Republic in charge of information gave further explanations to the journalists. Libya is busy fomenting subversion in order to occupy Chad. Several Tripoli-backed plots have been foiled, Soumaila Mahamat stated. Here is his introductory address:

[Begin recording] [Mahamat] Journalists of the national and international press, today's meeting is aimed at informing you, and through you, Chadian national opinion, as well as the international opinion, about a very serious matter. In addition to occupying half of Chad, I would like to remind you that Libya is busy organizing subversion daily, not only in some other places, but in particular in Chad, which it wants to annex, pure and simple. It is because of this desire to occupy Chad that Libya has tried to perpetrate several plots in Chad. But the most serious and the most recent of the plots was the plot that was foiled by the Chadian security agents last 26 September and was aimed at assassinating the president of the Republic and the entire Cabinet during the meeting scheduled to take place on 27 September 1984. Earlier, in March, there was another plot that destroyed an UTA aircraft in Ndjamena. This was yet another direct act of Al-Qadhdhafi. Through the questions and answers that will soon follow, we want to bring to your attention the precise details of this serious plot. At the end of our discussion we will place at the disposal of the press the white paper issued on [date indistinct] (?January) and which gives you all the necessary details on the two plots I have just mentioned. Now I am at your disposal.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Minister, did you need foreign assistance to unravel the Libyan plot against President Hissein Habre?

[Mahamat] No. The plot to assassinate the president of the Republic and all the members of government was discovered essentially with the help of some patriotic Chadians both within the country and outside the country and by our security services, so there was no direct or indirect help from outside to unravel this plot.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, did not France, for example, play an important role in the uncovering of this plot?

[Mahamat] I earlier stressed that no direct or indirect help was received from outside to discover the plot. It was Chadians who discovered the plot.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, earlier, your counterpart for foreign affairs spoke of [words indistinct] to solve the problem of terrorism in Chad., What is the link with this present issue?

[Mahamat] It is a fact that the bombs passed through Libya. You know just as well as I do that the technique and the manufacturing of bombs form part of that country's system. In several countries, it is terrorist groups and not state services that manufacture bombs. Several terrorists groups in Western Europe, the United States, and elsewhere manufacture bombs and the terrorist market is a very flourishing one. For a man like Al-Qadhdhafi, who specializes in the manufacture of bombs and who has the means to buy them, it is no problem to acquire them. The bombs do not have any particular origin. They were made with elements found in various countries by various terrorist groups. After arriving in Libya, these bombs were sent to Chad.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, earlier, the [words indistinct] we heard that the bomb was remote-controlled from the left bank of the Chari River, near Kousseri. [passage indistinct]

[Mahamat] It is true that the rumors began spreading the day after this attempt, and the characteristics of these bombs were that [words indstinct] were bombs that were hidden in a briefcase with remote-control detonators.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, not everyone will be able to see the document that you present to the ambassadors, as was earlier announced. Could you give us the background details on how the event took place and which persons were arrested, in order to keep the Chadian public well informed?

[Mahamat] I will give you a few extracts of this document. On 26 September 1984 security agents, upon information from some Chadian patriots, raided the house of a Chadian trader who is called Ali Hassan Adam, on whom more details will be given later in the document. After the search conducted in his house, a leather attache case was found, a case just like what is used by businessmen the world over. This attache case in fact contained an electronic device with enough explosives to destroy a house. When questioned, Ali Hassan disclosed that he received the bomb from a Libyan agent in Cotonou, on the other side of the river. The Libyan agent was called (Idrissu Abd al-Salam) [words indistinct] a trader who is presently at Kousseri, told Ali Hassan, who lives in Ndjamena, that the attache case contained a tape recorder. He therefore asked Ali to place the attache case in the meeting room of the Chamber of Commerce just before the cabinet meeting. The recorder — Ali had been made to believe that the so-called recorder was meant for recording the cabinet meeting — which was in fact a bomb, was therefore on the other side of the river, at Ndjamena, in his house. He kept it with him while waiting to receive further instructions. The Libyan official showed Ali another attache case, the photo of which is in the document that I will later give to you, which contained a radio and a tape recorder; that is the machine that was at Kousseri. He was asked to use the so-called recorder to record the cabinet meeting debate.

After studying the analysis of the time-bomb, the members of the government decided to keep this information secret until today. Therefore, this was the procedure which was to have been used, and which was in fact used until the plot was revealed.

[Reporter] You have mentioned Ali Hassan, who has been arrested. Do you [words indistinct] the authors of the plot?

[Mahamat] In the first place, legal action has already been taken. Ali Hassan is a terrorist who was caught red-handed. Once the hearing begins, it will proceed to the end. At the opportune moment, Mr Ali Hassan will be judged according to the law on terrorism in Chad.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, you say that the attache case was found on Ali Hassan; I would like to know whether the person in question had the opportunity of taking the attache case to the cabinet meeting hall? [passage indistinct] Did Mr Hassan have the opportunity to enter the conference hall? Mr Minister, in the same line of thought, can one say that the security services are capable of unraveling plots?

[Mahamat] In order to give you a satisfactory answer to the questions you have just asked, it will be useful to give you an idea about the strength of the bomb. The strength of the bomb in terms of weight was 15 kg and, according to analysis reports, if it had exploded, it would have destroyed everything, the entire building, which would have been scattered over an radius of 7.5 meters [as heard]. Therefore, this bomb, which was to have been placed within the building with the complicity of persons outside the building, could have destroyed the whole building.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, you said earlier that the terrorists in question were in Cameroon. Can one say that there is some cooperation between our security services and the security services in Cameroon (?for arresting terrorists)? Does such cooperation exist?

[Mahamat] You are aware that (?I was in Cameroon when the plot was being prepared). You must also be aware that there is close cooperation between the neighboring countries and ours, in addition to our regular meetings. However, I stress that the plot in question, compared with others, was discovered through information received from Chadian patriots and owing to the vigilance of the Chadian security services. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] Members of the opposition have recently talked about an attempted assassination plot about 3 weeks ago in which the president escaped. What can you tell us about that?

[Mahamat] The only assassination plot we know of — unless there is a new assassination plot under preparation in their minds — is the one we have just talked about and on which we have just given some details. We are not aware of any other assassination plots created by Libya.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, it was after Chad had submitted its protest note to the United Nations in which it raised the case of assassination plots against the president of the Republic that members of the opposition issued a communique from Brussels talking about an assassination plot by the close entourage of the president of the Republic. [passage indistinct]

[Mahamat] Oh no, let's be serious. We know perfectly the propaganda methods and practices of Libyans and their acolytes. The fact that the opposition takes the slightest opportunity to contradict what we say will not prevent us from speaking the truth. That is not a major concern for us at the moment. If we tried to guess what they will say each time we say this or that, the system would become very (?cumbersome). [passage indistinct] We have had evidence of this plot since 26 September 1984. To investigate and ascertain the details of the plot we waited 2 months, even more, before informing the public and the press. This then is what we think of this problem. [end recording]

Briefs

New Envoy From Canada — Ndjamena, 30 Jan (AFP) — The new Canadian ambassador to Chad, Marc Faguy, presented his credentials to Chadian head of state Hissein Habre on Wednesday. [Excerpt] [*Paris AFP in French 1511 GMT 30 Jan 85 AB*]

GABON

Interministerial Meeting Examines Foreigners Status

AB302043 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] An interministerial council meeting was held today at the prime minister's office. This meeting, which was chaired by the prime minister, prepared a huge file that will be presented to the head of state at the next cabinet meeting. One of the issues discussed at the meeting was the situation of foreigners living in Gabon, that is the Lebanese and West Africans. It will be recalled that the head of state gave the security forces an order to put an end to illegal trade by these foreigners through vigorous control [words indistinct]. The presidential order was addressed to the security forces and not to civilians. The president of the Republic also launched an appeal for the reopening of (?shops) which is read here by General [name indistinct], presidential adviser and deputy general secretary of the Ministry of National Defense.

[Begin name indistinct recording] During the meeting on 25 January 1985 between officers of the national gendarmerie and the president of the Republic, head of state, and supreme leader of the Army, the president gave the security forces instructions to tighten security all over the country; that is, check illegal immigration, check illicit trade, ban prostitution, and fight against fetishistic priests and vandalism. While the security forces are taking the necessary measures to carry out these orders, we have noted with regret that some traders, who are here legally, closed their shops immediately, thus angering clients and leading to some confusion at Mongouanou market.

Therefore, any person who is tempted to engage in acts of vandalism will be arrested immediately and tried before the law. Moreover, we call on all traders to resume their daily activities (?at once). [end recording]

Communique Issued on Looting of Lebanese Shops

AB301350 Paris AFP in French 1227 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Libreville, 30 Jan (AFP) — In a communique issued yesterday evening, Gabonese authorities have warned the inhabitants of Libreville to stop looting the shops of Lebanese traders. The communique was issued 4 days after President Omar Bongo's violent declarations against some foreign traders, especially "the Lebanese," accused of "destroying the national economy."

"Hooligans," among whom were some "soldiers in fatigue dress," committed acts of vandalism (throwing stones and pilfering) against Lebanese nationals in the "Mont Bouet" commercial area of Libreville, the Gabonese daily newspaper, *L'UNION*, reported.

The official communique also called on the traders, who out of fear have closed their shops, "to reopen them in order to have business as usual between them and their customers." Several shops, however, remained closed this morning in the "Mont Bouet" area.

ZAIRE

Official Calls for Border Talks With Angola

AB301632 Paris AFP in French 1326 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 30 Jan (AFP) — Zaire would like "an appropriate framework to be set up and strengthened for regular meetings" with Angola to enable them to discuss border security, the head of the Zairian delegation announced at the fourth session of the bilateral joint commission which began in Kinshasa on Tuesday afternoon.

Zaire is concerned with the maintenance of "the policy of good-neighborliness and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states," pointed out Lengema Dulia, secretary of state for international cooperation, in his opening speech, the official agency AZAP announced. This meeting, which is expected to end on Friday, precedes an official visit to Kinshasa by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, probably in early February, according to reliable sources.

"Taking into account the starting difficulties, relations between Zaire and Angola may be cited as an example in Africa of the result of a determination on the part of both countries to improve their bilateral relations," according to Zairian official sources, in view of the Shaba wars of 1977 and 1978 and the accusations each country made against the other about the harboring of armed opponents to their respective regimes — UNITA, for Luanda and the "Katangans" for Zaire.

Mr Lengema also explored the insufficient amount of trade that is carried out between the two countries and hoped that an agreement on border trade would be reached during the meeting. Kinshasa would also like negotiations on fishing between the two countries to end conclusively, the secretary of state said, in reference to the project for the creation of a joint fishing company.

His Angolan counterpart, Carlos Antonio Fernandes, merely remarked that great development potential exists in both countries.

Friendship Treaty With Romania Ratified

AB302047 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1802 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 30 Jan (AZAP) — The ceremony for the exchange of instruments of ratification of the friendship and cooperation treaty signed between Zaire and Romania took place on Wednesday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The ceremony was attended by Citizen Kalonji Tshikala, an ambassador and a director of the European Division at the ministry, and Mr Mircea Andrei, Romania's ambassador to Zaire. According to a statement handed to AZAP, this ceremony demonstrates once more the excellent relations existing between (?the two peoples and the two heads of state), Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko and Mr Nicolae Ceausescu.

BURKINA

Foreign Minister Guissou Visits France

For Paris reportage on the visit to France by Laitar Basile Guissou, foreign affairs and cooperation minister, including his meetings with Christian Nucci, French minister delegate to the Ministry of External Relations for cooperation and development, see the France section of the 30 January Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

IVORY COAST

Houphouet-Boigny: Leaflets of 'Little Interest'

AB301838 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 30 Jan 85 p 25

[President Houphouet-Boigny's comments at an informal reconciliation meeting held with representatives of the people of Gagnoa region in Yamoussoukro on 27 January]

[Excerpts] Dear brothers and sisters, I could even say dear sons and dear daughters of Gagnoa, you will notice the emotion with which I would like to briefly express to you my sincere thanks and warmest congratulations.

This morning two issues were put before me. One of them concerns not only our two municipalities, that is Yamoussoukro and Gagnoa, but also the whole region of Gagnoa and all Ivory Coast, the entire country.

On leaflets, I would like us to stop talking about them once and for all. On the steps of the Elysee Palace, after my meeting with President Francois Mitterrand, journalists asked me what I thought of the leaflets that circulated during my absence from Abidjan. I told them very briefly: "One does not build with leaflets, neither does one destroy with them." I stopped there, because I was in a foreign country, even when one is in a friendly country, one is on foreign land.

If these leaflets had not been issued by my brothers, I could have said that I despised them, but I cannot despise my brothers, even if they have gone astray. The leaflets are of very little interest to us, so do not waste time reading them.

We have a lot to do before we attain our noble objectives. Ensuring the happiness of the Ivorian man and his equality with other people and the most developed races of this earth is a long and difficult task. For the construction of the country to meet the aspirations of the people, it must be based on the unshakable love of the children of this country, a brotherly love which excludes all the pettiness that we need to ignore. What I am asking you to do is to ensure that with each new day, the brotherly ties of friendship between all the children of this country will lead to the strengthening of our common desire to achieve, in spite of difficulties, the ideal of brotherly cohabitation — that is to say to accept living together in a brotherly manner, in spite of the enriching diversity of peoples in the country. Therefore, I will tell my friends from Gagnoa that since they have given me the opportunity to make a speech by asking me to visit them, I accept their invitation.

At the major press conference that I would like to hold in May and to which top journalists from the whole world are invited, the Ivory Coast — although it is a small country, it is proud of its sovereign rights and considerate of the immense sacrifices of its noblest children, and which knows how to keep silent, one does not hear the panther before it has its prey in its grips — will clearly define its relations with all countries in the world. We are independent, totally independent.

I favorably accept the grand invitation you have just given me in the name of the party and the country.

See you soon in Gagnoa, my brothers!

Differences Between President, Gagnoa Outlined

AB301838 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 30 Jan 85 p 23

[Special Correspondent Michel Kouame article: "The Historic Meeting of Yamoussoukro"]

[Excerpts] At the same time as the PDCI-RDA [Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally] was created, in the Gagnoa region the Socialist Party of Dignan Bailly and the party of Djedje Kapri was also established. The great majority of the people then were illiterate, and for sheer sentimentalism they joined these parties of the sons of the region. A resolutely sectarian attitude made partisans of these parties reject partisans of PDCI-RDA. At the time of independence, Bailly joined President Houphouet-Boigny, and a new page was therefore turned.

But in 1970, the year when the independence anniversary was being celebrated in Gagnoa, a son of that region, in the person of Gnagbe Kragbe, abused the confidence of the inhabitants of this region. Always lenient and kind to his compatriots, the president forgot about that incident.

But one recalls the teachers' strike action in 1983, among whose ring leaders were many Bete [ethnic group of the Gagnoa region], including one from Gagnoa. At this same time in France there was another son of this region who was hitting the headlines with his cutting attacks on President Felix Houphouet-Boigny's regime.

There have been many episodes that, up until now, have left political clouds hanging over the relationship of the people of this region with the head of state. That is their opinion, but this opinion is not shared by the head of state whose whole political career has been characterized by humanist ideals.

"Our character is based on spontaneity in action. If it were true that we do not have President Houphouet-Boigny at heart, there would not have been a single person in Yamoussoukro," declared a member of parliament from the region. He went on to explain that during the meeting held in Abidjan to prepare for the trip

to Yamoussoukro, it was decided that only 90 cadres would participate in this trip because of accommodation problems that could arise, but finally they ended up making the trip with over 500 people.

The people of Gagnoa completely dissociated themselves from the leaflets which had been distributed. "These leaflets were not written by the people of Gagnoa, and we are surprised to see them," the same parliamentarian pointed out, adding that these isolated actions are the deeds of people who want to discredit the region of Gagnoa.

Speaking on behalf of the Bete people of the region, Dacoury Tabley, mayor of Gagnoa, emphatically pointed out that this part of the Ivory Coast has always supported the head of state. He used the opportunity to denounce "a few marginals seeking sensation and publicity" (he would not give them free publicity by mentioning their names) whose behavior has been irresponsible and blameworthy. According to the mayor of Gagnoa, these irresponsible people have not succeeded in winning over anybody and that is why the entire people of this region unconditionally supports the PDCI-RDA and President Houphouet-Boigny.

LIBERIA

UPP Members Arrested for Distributing Leaflets

AB301647 Paris AFP in French 1507 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Monrovia, 30 Jan (AFP) — An unknown number of people have been arrested in the north of Liberia for distributing leaflets signed by the United People's Party (UPP), headed by former Foreign Affairs Minister Gabriel Bacchus Matthews, the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY announced on Wednesday. The agency quoted sources from the Special Elections Commission [Secom], which suspended the political activities of the UPP 2 weeks ago, accusing it of violating its directives by distributing canvassing leaflets before its statutes were approved by the probate court.

Mr Matthews protested against the suspension imposed on his party, saying that the UPP has never violated any directives of the Secom and that "the people have the right to know about any association before joining it." The UPP has asked for the lifting of the suspension which, it said, "has seriously undermined its chances of participating in the forthcoming October elections" that will bring back in January 1986 a civilian government to the country after 6 years of military administration.

MALI

Traore Meets Mauritanian Official, Soviet Envoy

AB301635 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The head of state was at Kalana yesterday, continuing his tour of the Sikasso region. In the evening, he received an emissary from the Mauritanian president. Colonel Ahmed Ould Abdallah, a member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and chief of staff of the Mauritanian Armed Forces, was bearer of a message to President Moussa Traore. The strengthening of the bonds of friendship and fraternal cooperation existing between Mali and Mauritania, ways to bolster subregional and regional solidarity, and the need for strong support efforts aimed at a true Maghreb unity were the issues discussed during this audience.

President Moussa Traore also received the Soviet ambassador to Mali, His Excellency Yevgeniy Nersesov. The Soviet diplomat told our reporter Jibril Boje about what he discussed with the head of state:

[Begin Nersesov recording] The main topic of our discussion was bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Mali. Our discussions bore on economic cooperation as well as ways to extend this cooperation. We also talked about some development projects. [passage indistinct] I also conveyed to the president the greetings of the Soviet staff working here at the Kalana gold mine, who have asked me to present a gift on their behalf to the head of state on the occasion of his visit to this area. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

NIGER

Kountche Receives Bongo Message on Drought Aid

AB302221 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpt] General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, this afternoon received in audience a Gabonese delegation led by Rene Radembino-Coniquet, Gabonese minister of state and secretary general to the presidency. After the audience, the Gabonese minister of state disclosed that he was bearer of a message from President Bongo to President Seyni Kountche:

[Begin Radembino-Coniquet recording] We came to deliver a message from President Bongo to the president of Niger. First, I must thank our Niger friends for the warm and brotherly welcome. We were given the privilege of delivering the message to President Seyni Kountche. It was within the framework of fraternal relations of solidarity existing between Gabon and Niger in particular, and between African states in general. You know the problem preoccupying Africa right now is the problem of the drought and famine. Within the framework of these problems facing Niger in particular, Gabonese women, and in particular the Gabonese first lady, called on all Gabonese, with the permission of President Bongo, to come to the aid of our needy Niger brothers. The people donated foodstuffs and other goods. Our visit here today is to come and announce to President Kountche that the Gabonese people have decided to make these donations to our Niger brothers. The donation can be put at about 800 tons and is ready to be airlifted. [end recording]

NIGERIA

Gambari To Head Delegation to OAU Meeting

AB301619 Lagos International Service in English 1430 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Nigeria is to be represented at a meeting of the OAU Liberation Committee opening tomorrow in Accra, Ghana. The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, leaves Lagos today for Accra, at the head of Nigeria's delegation to the 3-day meeting which will also be attended by other African foreign ministers. The meeting is expected to discuss matters relating to Namibia's independence and the liberation struggle in southern Africa as a whole. Dr Gambari will make a stopover in Cotonou, Benin Republic, to deliver a special message from the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, to President Mathieu Kerekou. The delegation is expected back in Lagos on Monday.

Joint Communique With Bulgaria on Filipov Visit

For the Sofia *RABOTNICHESKO DELO* version of the joint communique issued on the visit to Nigeria by Grisha Filipov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, see the Bulgaria section of the 30 January Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

Official Asks Press To Foster Progress, Freedom

AB301622 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] The Nigerian press has been called upon to help in fostering national progress and freedom as well as to mobilize the people. The director general of the Television Authority, Mr Vincent Maduka, made the call while addressing members of the Rotary Club of Palm Grove. Mr Maduka urged mass media practitioners to desist some flattery, self-delusion, and pessimism. On press freedom, the director general remarked that the measure of a journalist's freedom could be judged by the extent to which he could support or oppose his proprietor.

VANGUARD Comments on U.S. Drought Relief Mission

AB310940 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The *VANGUARD* comments on the recent visit of General Vernon Walters, the American president's emissary and ambassador at large, to Nigeria. The paper, while welcoming the request by the United States for making use of Nigerian ports for transportation of relief material to drought-stricken West African countries, raises a number of questions about the mission. The *VANGUARD* says it wants the public to be enlightened on what exactly the United States mission is all about and how long she intends to make use of such facilities.

SENEGAL

Union Leader Blames Libya for OATUU Confusion

AB301758 Paris AFP in French 1319 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Dakar, 30 Jan (AFP) — Madia Diop, secretary general of the National Confederation of Senegalese Workers, (CNTS — the largest Senegalese trade union) has accused Libya of causing the confusion that reigned during the fourth Organization of African Trade Union Unity, OATUU, congress in Lagos.

In a statement to the Dakar daily *LE SOLEIL*, Mr Diop asserted that "Libya had bought the consciences of some African trade unions in order to radicalize the OATUU." "The sum of $3000 was used in corrupting some delegations," he said.

The OATUU congress ended on Sunday without the election of an executive bureau. The outgoing team, which included the Libyan Ali al-Nafashy (chairman) and the Kenyan Denis Ukuma (executive secretary), was replaced by a special commission headed by the Nigerian Hassan Sunmonu.

Madia Diop also accused the outgoing executive secretary of "being a mere boaster, a false revolutionary, and a Libyan agent," and condemned his financial management.

ANGOLA

Luanda on Talks Between Wisner, Officials

MB310634 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Frank Wisner, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary for African affairs, is in Luanda for talks with the Angolan Government. Our country's delegation to the talks is led by Comrade Alexandre Rodrigues Kito, a member of the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau. Frank Wisner has already visited South Africa, Mozambique, and Zambia, where he also held talks with local officials on the situation in southern Africa.

MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo Examines Constructive Engagement Policy

MB310649 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the program which follows this commentary, you will be hearing a range of international views on the U.S. Administration's policy of constructive engagement. Although the Reagan administration insists that this policy is geared to the southern African region rather than to South Africa alone, the general opinion seems to be that South Africa is the centerpiece of this U.S. strategy. It is therefore worth looking at what has happened to South African policy while the U.S. constructive engagement strategy has been in force.

President Reagan's stated objectives can be boiled down to two main points. One is peace in the southern African region and the other is a sign of movement toward racial equality in South Africa. Some people argue that Mr Reagan's true objectives are quite different, but the achievement of peace and racial equality are the issues on which Mr Reagan wishes his policy to be judged. So, let it be. The question of racial equality in southern Africa is a relatively subtle one. Such equality exists in every country in the region, except South Africa and its colony, Namibia.

Since the constructive engagement policy was introduced, apartheid has been constitutionally entrenched in South Africa. The much vaunted new dispensation specificially excludes the black majority, and P.W. Botha's recent announcement that there would be an informal, nonstatutory political forum for blacks serves only to emphasize black exclusion from political rights. This cosmetic tinkering with the apartheid system is evidently meant to impress the Reagan administration — apart from any political advantage Mr Botha hopes to gain internally — but the tinkering has been so cosmetic that it has resulted in an increase in violence in South Africa.

Parallel to the political moves inside South Africa, Mr Botha's government has engaged in dialogue with states in the region, most importantly Mozambique and Angola. This dialogue has been encouraged by the Reagan administration as part of his constructive engagement policy. Angola and Mozambique have scrupulously implemented the security agreements which flowed from this dialogue early last year. They have received very little in return. The armed attacks against Angola and Mozambique are continuing, even being intensified. These attacks are carried out by armed groups which were built up as extensions of the South African Armed Forces. The agreements have not stopped the aggression. The violence continues.

Objectively, the honorable objectives declared by the Reagan administration, peace and racial equality, have not been achieved. U.S. senators and congressmen are disturbed by this and are promising action to try to move the administration toward a more fruitful southern Africa policy. In a speech last month, President Reagan himself gave many people the impression that he may be modifying his position. It is only a slight sign of change, but one which should be encouraged by all Americans who truly support peace and antiracism in southern Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA

Government Prepared To Consider Mandela Release

MB311405 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1348 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] House of Assembly, January 31, SAPA — The South African Government was prepared to consider the release of the former ANC leader, Nelson Mandela, the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, said today.

The offer was conditional to a commitment by Mr Mandela not to make himself guilty of planning, instigating or committing acts of violence for the furtherence of political aims, Mr Botha said.

He was speaking near the end of the no confidence debate and said Mr Mandela would have to undertake to conduct himself "in such a way that he will not have to be arrested."

"It is not the South African Government which now stands in the way of Mr Mandela's freedom," he said.

"The choice is his. All that is requested from him now is that he should unconditionally reject violence as a political isntrument, a norm which is respected in all civilised countries of the world."

Mr Botha referred to a recent visit paid to the jailed leader by the British peer, Lord Bethell, who is also a British member of the European Parliament and a member of the European working group on human rights.

Lord Bethel had asked for Mr Mandela's release as had many others, including President Kaizer Matanzima of the Transkei.

Lord Bethel and *THE MAIL* on Sunday, which published his findings on visits to two South African prisons and Mr Mandela, had requested the relese of Mr Mandela.

"They are neither the first nor the only ones to make such a request to the South African Government.

"Two eminent black leaders, President Matanzima and chief Minister Buthelezi (of KwaZulu), also called on me to release Mr Mandela.

"In fact, President Matanzima has for years been appealing to the South African Government to have Mr Mandela and a number of other citizens of the Transkei, who are serving prison sentences in South Africa, released in Transkei."

These persons belonged to his people and Mr Mandela was related to him, President Matanzima had said.

He would provide them and their families with suitable houses in order to resume a normal family life.

"He also indicated that these people will not act contrary to provisions of any law should they be released," Mr Botha said.

"The government is prepared to give sympathetic consideration to President Matanzima's requests, but it seems that Mr Mandela and his associates prefer to stay in prison rather than being released in their country of origin.

"My government is not insensitive to the fact that Mr Mandela and others have spent a very long time in prison, even though they were duly convicted in open court."

Even Lord Bethell had rejected the ANC and unreservedly rejected violence as a means to achieving political aims.

"As I have indicated, the government is willing to consider Mr Mandela's release, but I am sure that parliament will understand that we cannot do so if Mr Mandela himself says that the moment he leaves prison he will continue with his commitment to violence," Mr Botha said.

"All that is required of him now is that he should unconditionally reject violence as a political instrument. This is, after all, a norm which is respected in all civilised countries of the world," Mr Botha said.

Mrs Helen Suzman, Progressive Federal Party ((PFP) Houghton) asked Mr Botha whether this offer applied to other prisoners apart from Mr Mandela.

He replied that it did, as did the conditions for release.

President Says Disinvestment May Cause Bloodbath

MB311409 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1406 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] House of Assembly, Jan 31, SAPA — The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, today warned that a bloodbath would ensue if foreign proponents of disinvestment in the republic had their way.

But he added that South Africa would resist disinvestment attempts and that the efforts of these "reckless elements" would fail.

"If elements overseas that are opposed to South Africa have their way it will lead to poverty and a bloodbath," Mr Botha said during the no confidence debate.

"If this happens then many will suffer. South Africa is constituted in such a way that it can easily be led into a bloodbath by any fool.

"Any fool can strike a match that will lead to a bloodbath but it takes wise people to avoid this happening," Mr Botha said.

"If the free world supports this fatal course then it is no longer free but an instrument of despair," Mr Botha added.

It was heartening to note that the leader of the opposition, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, had opposed disinvestment and Mr Botha said he hoped Western leaders would add their voices to those who had already spoken out against the "foolish, radical, leftists" who proposed disinvestment.

The president said he did not underestimate the strength of the disinvestment campaign and would be a fool if he did.

"But I warn these reckless elements...that they are making a mistake. They will make this country poorer. But the people they most want to help will suffer the most."

South Africa would resist all attempts to promote disinvestment.

"Don't put us with our backs to the wall you might find a far different situation if you do."

Mr Botha said he was prepared to go far to improve race relations but he was not prepared to lead the country's whites into abdication.

Disinvestment was a new way in which countries, that had previously tried to prove that South Africa was destabilising southern Africa, were now trying to harm the republic, the state president said.

"If they should succeed we will naturally pay the price but not the least of those who will suffer are those whose interests they (the disinvestment campaigners) say they serve," he said.

Government Meets With Foreign Dignitaries

MB301940 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1936 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] House of Assembly, Jan 30, SAPA — South Africa's Government met with foreign dignitaries to inform them of local circumstances, not to explain or make apologies, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said today.

He spoke in the debate on the leader of the opposition's vote of no confidence in the cabinet and took the Conservative Party to task for "continuously presenting an image of the government buckling under international pressure.

"If this is true, then why all the (anti-South African) action in the American House of Representatives and Senate?

"Why the mighty disinvestment campaign and the demonstrations outside our embassies and consulates?" the minister asked.

"We use these opportunities of meeting foreign leaders for dialogue. The government is not afraid to meet foreign representatives, we even let a Senator Kennedy come here and make a fool of himself.

"We welcome people who want to obtain information about South Africa. We admit openly that we are not the perfect government and that conditions here are not perfect.

"We sketch the conditions in Africa and point out we cannot be judged out of context.

"In other words we do not see contact as an opportunity to explain or make apologies, but to convince and to point out that we believe we will solve our own problems," Mr Botha said.

Viljoen Denies Defense Force Supports Renamo

MB301931 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] The chief of the Defense Force, General Constand Viljoen, says he wishes to state clearly and unequivocally that the Defense Force and all its branches fully support the Nkomati Accord with Mozambique.

Writing in a letter to a Cape Town newspaper, he said that no member of the Defense Force supported the Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] movement in any way and described as a raw untruth the allegation that the Defense Force was at odds with the Department of Foreign Affairs on certain objectives.

The Defense Force, he said, had only one aim and that was to serve the country and its head of state.

ZAMBIA

Bulgaria Reschedules Loans, Signs New Agreements

MB301333 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Bulgaria has agreed to reschedule Zambia's loans, worth 2.5 million kwacha, for years. The prime minister, Mr Nalumino Mundia, announced this in Lusaka today, and said the rescheduling follows successful discussions between the Zambian Government and the Bulgarian delegation, which has been in the country, led by that country's prime minister, Grisha Filipov.

The prime minister expressed Zambia's indebtedness to Bulgaria for that country's sympathetic consideration for Zambia's economic difficulty to repay the loans in time.

Zambia and Bulgaria have meanwhile signed three agreements in the economic, agricultural, and cultural fields to strengthen bilateral relations between the two nations. Following the signing of the agricultural agreement, the two countries will go into joint ventures growing maize, sunflower, and tobacco at [name indistinct] to enable the country to earn foreign exchange.

The finance minister signed the economic agreement while the acting agriculture and water development minister signed the agricultural pact on behalf of Zambia. Mr Kebby Musokotwane, the minister of general education and culture, signed the cultural one.

The Bulgarian premier left Lusaka for home this morning after a 3-day official visit to Zambia at the invitation of his Zambian counterpart, Mr Mundia. Mr Filipov was given a 19-gun salute and inspected a guard of honor mounted by the 2d Battalion of the Zambia Regiment and watched traditional dances at Lusaka International Airport before departure.

He was seen off by Mr Mundia, Secretary of State for Defense and Security Grey Zulu, as well as several senior party and government leaders, and hundreds of Lusaka residents.